ESTTA Tracking number:

ESTTA1084995

Filing date:

09/28/2020

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	92025859		
Party	Defendant General Cigar Co., Inc.		
Correspondence Address	ANDREW DEUTSCH DLA PIPER LLP US 2000 AVENUE OF THE STARS SUITE 400 LOS ANGELES, DE 90067 UNITED STATES Primary Email: Andrew.Deutsch@dlapiper.com Secondary Email(s): David.Huff@dlapiper.com, mkrinsky@rbskl.com, joshua.schwartzman@us.dlapiper.com, john.nading@us.dlapiper.com 212.335.4880		
Submission	Defendant's Notice of Reliance		
Filer's Name	Andrew L. Deutsch		
Filer's email	Andrew.deutsch@us.dlapiper.com, Joshua.schwartzman@us.dlapiper.com, john.nading@us.dlapiper.com, Valerie.fadis@us.dlapiper.com		
Signature	/Andrew L. Deutsch/		
Date	09/28/2020		
Attachments	GCC NOR Ex. 20 Cigar Aficionado - April 2018 (Part 01).pdf(5647838 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 20 Cigar Aficionado - April 2018 (Part 02).pdf(5695048 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 20 Cigar Aficionado - April 2018 (Part 03).pdf(5742163 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 20 Cigar Aficionado - April 2018 (Part 04).pdf(5231688 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 21 Cigar Aficionado - June 2018 (Part 01).pdf(5230859 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 21 Cigar Aficionado - June 2018 (Part 02).pdf(1553128 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 22 Cigar Aficionado - August 2018 (Part 01).pdf(5748764 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 22 Cigar Aficionado - August 2018 (Part 02).pdf(5698693 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 22 Cigar Aficionado - August 2018 (Part 03).pdf(5599637 bytes ) GCC NOR Ex. 22 Cigar Aficionado - August 2018 (Part 04).pdf(1585717 bytes )		

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

stration No. 1147309 81	)	
TABACO, d.b.a.	x : :	
Petitioner,	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
	:	
GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.,		
Respondent.	:	
	Registration No. 1898 TABACO, d.b.a. Petitioner, Respondent.	x TABACO, d.b.a. :  Petitioner, : :

# EXHIBIT 20

TO RESPONDENT GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE

# CIGATION OF THE GOOD LIFE MAGAZINE FOR MEN WWW.cigaraficionado.com

GOING FOR GREEN—WHO WILL WIN THE MASTERS?

CIGARS RATED

WINNING BIG WITH SMALL CASINO GAMES

JOE MANGANIELLO RISING STAR 12 FASTEST

CARS

MONEY
CAN BUY

WILD FOR IRISH WHISKEY

APRIL 2018 \$6.99 U.S. 0 4>

# Hennessy X.O

# EACH DROP OF HENNESSY X.O IS AN ODYSSEY

DON'T WAIT TO EXPER ENCE GREATNESS

















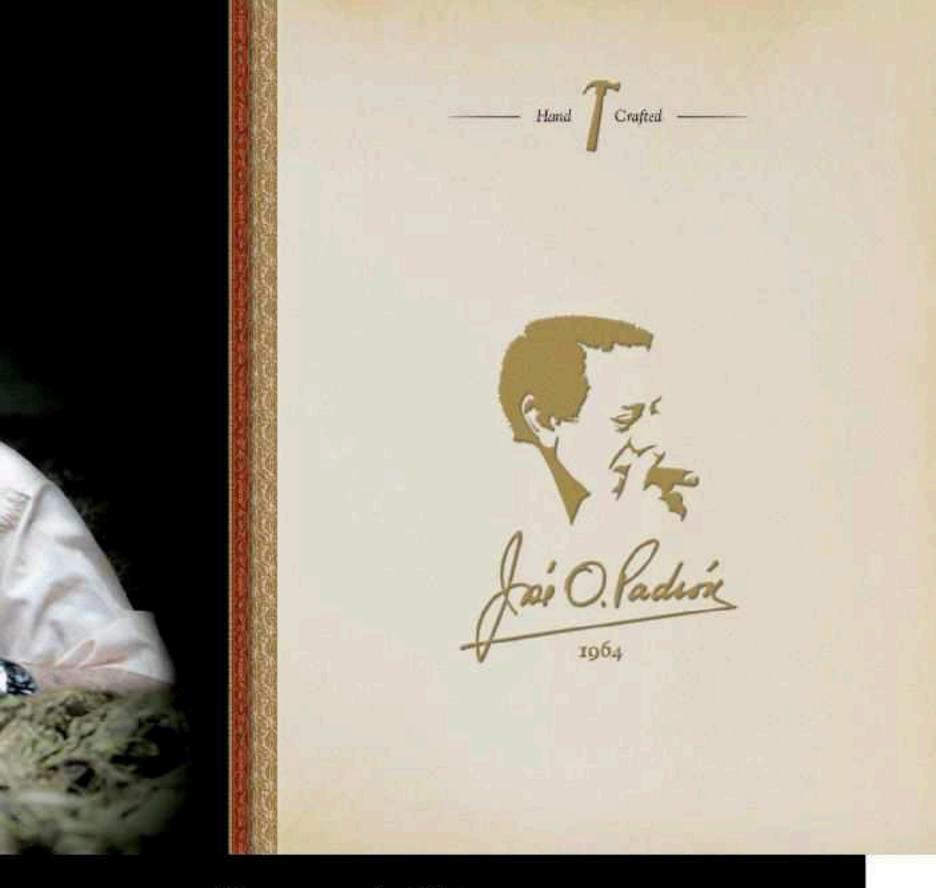












# When you remember life's important moments, you'll remember a Padrón.

For decades, Padrén smokers have shared with us the stories of special moments in their lives that have been distinguished by smoking one of our eigens. Striving to create great eigens worthy of such special times is our singular motivation, those moments shared with family and friends. The Padrón Family thanks you for your continued legalty and trust in the Padrón name.



# contents

march/april 2018

# up front

- 8 CIGAR HIGHLIGHTS
- TT EDITORS' NOTE
- letters 13 OUT OF THE HUMIDOR
- the best 21 THE GOOD LIFE GUIDE
  - 24 PLACES A nobleman's refuge in Ireland.
  - 24 ELECTRONICS Reconsider the camcorder.
  - 26 GOURMET Real maple syrup isn't for saps.
  - 20 WHEELS Indian Motorcycles: nostalgia gets an update.
  - 32 TIME The Rolex that takes the checkered Rag.
  - 35 DRINK The mighty mezcals.
  - 36 SPORT PXG golf clubs go to extremes.
  - 39 CIGARS Is Quasar the future of digar cutting?
  - 42 COLLECTING How toown an Old Master.

# features

cover 46 SMOKING JOE

At six-foot-five and hard as a rock, Joe Manganiello may seem built to play tough guys, but he also has an artistic side and a comedic flair as well as a love of great cigars.

golf 58 HANDICAPPING THE MASTERS
Augusta's azaleas and heritage are great, but the players go

to win the Master's green jacket. We rate the top 10 best prospects. Plus, a look at the tournament's historical greats.

cars 70 HYPER CHARGED

The ranks of street-legal hypercars are swelling with rides that boast sleek physiques and promise speeds well in excess of 200 miles per hour. And it's no hype.







ON THE COVER

Jae Mungune a The huid

goywith u at af heur Phatagruphed fat Cose Accaused by Peret Yung

# DOMINICAN

BY BIRTH

# CUBAN

BY HERITAGE



SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Tobacco Smoke Increases The Risk Of Lung Cancer And Heart Disease, Even In Nonsmokers. Rafael Nodal, boutique cigar crafter and Head of Product Capability at Tabacalera USA, has created this cigar using the best Dominicar-Cuban seeds, grown in the world-renowned Cibao Valley of the Dominican Republic.

Nodel has reimagined the Cuban soul of Trinidad, and the result, a Dominican pure full of character, complex flavor and unique aromas.

gambling 80 THE SMALL-GAME ARTIST

Eddie Teams makes a living playing oddball

casino games that other pros wouldn't touch—
and proves they're not all sucker bets.

spirits 87 THE TOP O'THE IRISH

The venerable whiskey from the Old Sod is widening its horizons with a range of single malts, single potstills and grain whiskey to match Ireland's reputation for blends.

travel go A PRINCELY PLACE

Monaco may be among the world's smallest countries, but the Mediterranean principality packs a wallop with great food, diversions, scenery and millionaires.

# cigars

tasting 100 We rate 80 digars in six sizes: Churchills (100), coronas (102), corona gordas (104), figurados (106), miscellaneous (108) and robustos (110) plus the Buying Guide (112) and Connoisseur's Corner, our vintage digar tasting (115).

industry IT7 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We sliced and diced the stats to tell you what
were the highest-rated digars of 2017, and
how they ranked by origin, size and cost.

Cuba report 125 RATING HABANOS
Our intrepid man in Havana finagles
a place at the table where Cuba blind
tastes its latest blends. We dare you
to read it without being envious.

128 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER
Photos From our readers as they enjoy
themselves and their digars.

Furniture made from plane parts; a luxury pen for the digital age; World Cup caliber soccer cleats; an umbrella that can't get lost; the get-buff massage; and denims that are fitting for large men.







# highlights

Searching for a great new cigar? Then this tasting is for you. Our tasting pane tested 80 smokes in a wide range of categories. From stately Churchi is to deviant misce aneous smokes. Thirty-nine scored go points or higher, so there's an opportunity to find a hidden treasure the next time you visityour local brick and mortar shop.



### TOP CHURCHILL

### **PUNCH AFTER DINNER**

This we use priced smake uses to becoos from five different countries in its blend, including an all uring y dark wrapper from Ecuador.

HONDURAS

93



### TOP FIGURADO

ALEC BRADLEY BLACK MARKET ESTEL! TORPEDO
An extension of the original Black Market from Honduras, the Estell
iteration is no led in Nicaragua using mostly Nicaraguan tobaccos.

**NICARAGUA** 

93



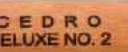
### TOP MISCELLANEOUS

### LAST CALL BY A.J. FERNANDEZ CHIQUITAS

Originally digarmaker A.J. Fernandez's personal blend, Last Callwears a reddish Eduador Habano wrapper over Nicaraguan binder and filer from Fernandez's own farms:

NICARAGUA

93





# TOP CORONA

# ROMEO Y JULIETA 1875 CEDRO DELUXE NO. 2

Rolled mostly with Daminican tobaccos and enrobed in an attractive Indonesian cover eaf, each Cedro Deluxe rests in a lovely, aromatic cedar sleeve. DOM, REF.

92



# TOP CORONA GORDA

### ASHTON VIRGIN SUN GROWN ROBUSTO

This classic Ashtan tied with Cuba's H. Lipmann Magnum 46 (Tuba) and the Jaya de Nicaragua Antaño 1970 Gran Reserva Robusto Grande for top honors among corona gordas. DOM, REP.

DOM, REP.

92



### TOP ROBUSTO

## LA AURORA ADN DOMINICANO ROBUSTO

The ADN Daminicana Rabusta tied with five other smakes atop the rabusta category: Cain Daytona 550, Guardian of the Farm Rambo, La Alianza Natura Robusto Selecto, San Lotano Requiem Maduro Robusto and Viaje Exclusivo Nicaragua Robusto. 90

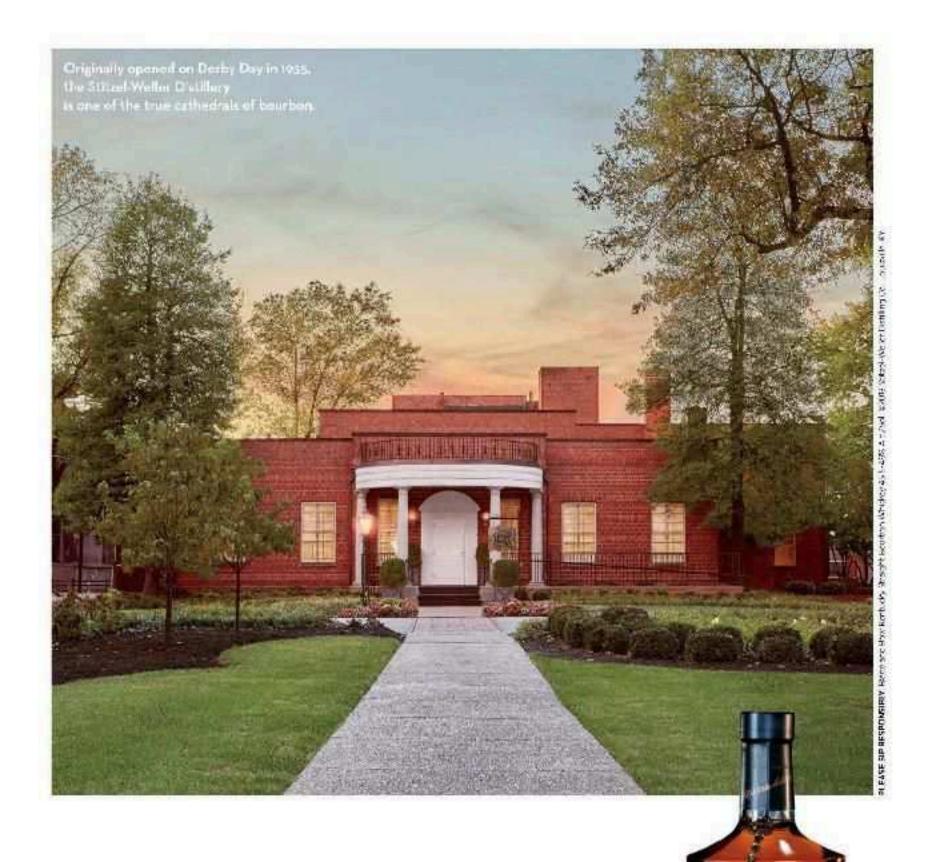


## BESTBUY

### CAIN DAYTONA 550

The value priced Cain Daytonaggo, which is made by the Oliva digar family, retails for a mere \$6:10 before taxes, making it one of the top values in this issue. NICARAGUA

90



# FROM RARITY COMES QUALITY

Blade and Bow is a Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey born of some of the bloest and rares, remaining stocks to be distilled here at the legendary Stituel-Waller Distillery.

BLADEANDBOWWHISKEY.COM



# THE ALL NEW REVERO

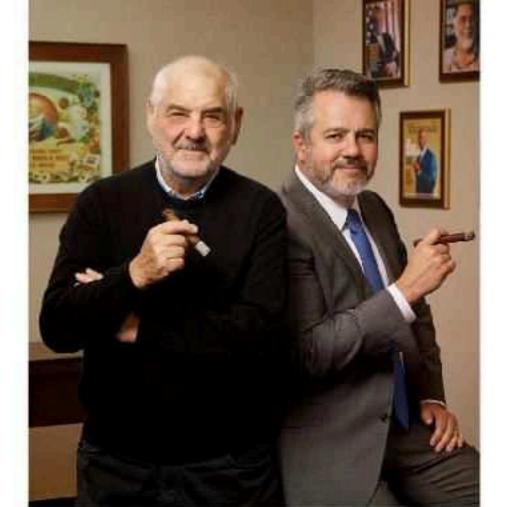


When you finish ahead of Porsche, BMW. Lexus and Cadillac, there's only one thing to do.

Be proud.

KARMAAUTOMOTIVE.COM





# editors' note

# A New Look At Our Cigar Reviews

We've rated digars for more than 25 years, and those reviews have looked virtually the same for that entire time. Not any more.

We are proud to present our new and improved tasting section. We've added a strength field to our tastings, so now every digarrating not only indicates dimensions, price, blend, country of origin and score, but also the power of its body. There are five categories of strength: mild, mild to medium, medium, medium to full and full bodied.

We made the change to provide ratings that go beyond the score. If you smoke only easygoing cigars, an 89-point, mild cigar is probably a better fit for you than a peppery, full-bodied smoke that scores 94 points.

In addition to that change, we've replaced our magazine's tasting index with a more richly detailed digar Buying Guide. There you'll find the top-scoring digars of the issue—regardless of country of origin—plus standout digars grouped by power, as well as a list of the issue's best buys. We don't know anyone who doesn't like to find a great buy in the digar world, and if there's one thing our taste tests have proven over the years it is that spending more on a digar doesn't guarantee you a better product. We want you to find the best digars—and you'll see that the best digars aren't always the most expensive digars.

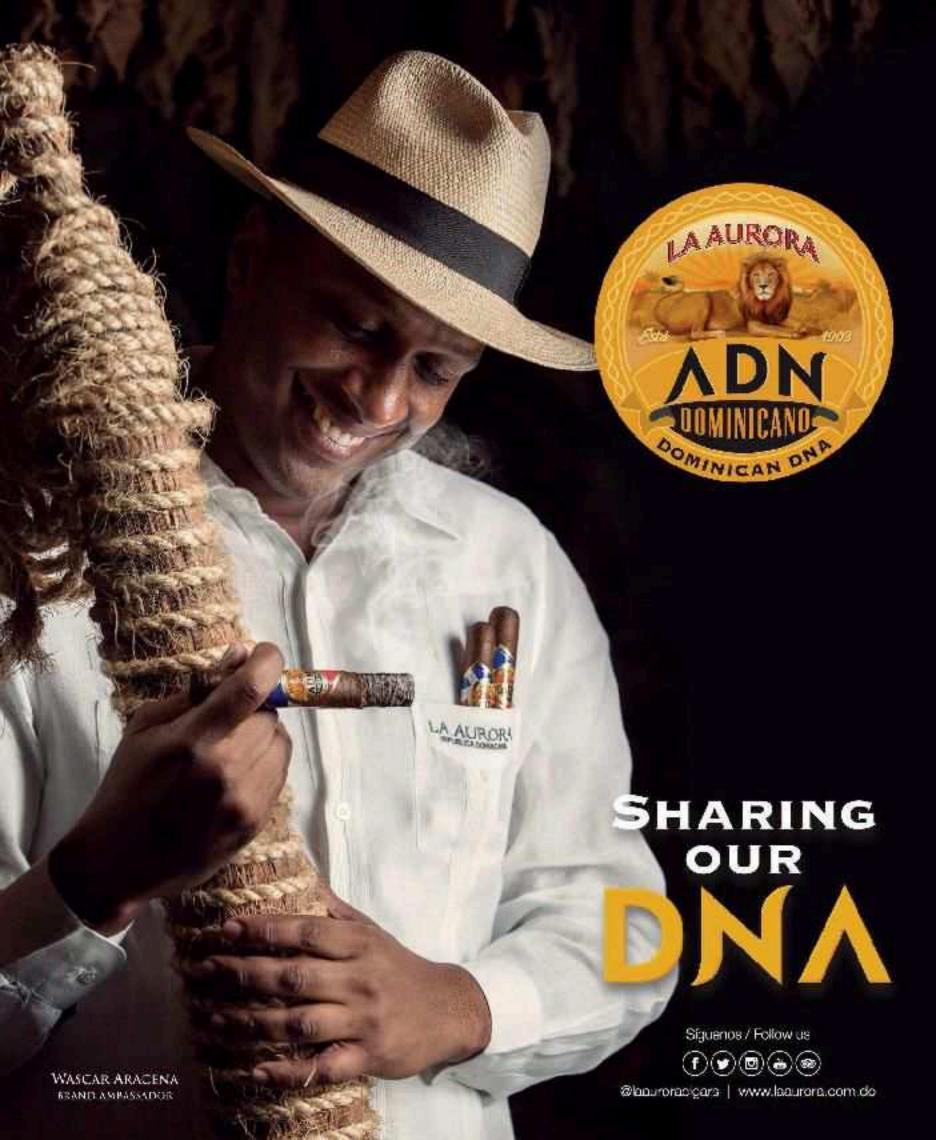
We're sure you'll find this Buying Guide a handy source of information on your next shopping trip. You'll find it on page 112.

Our Connoisseur's Corner page, where we rate well-aged, collectible digars, has a new look as well. You'll find that on page 115.

Yes, we've made some changes, but we haven't changed our method of reviewing digars. Our tasting coordinator shops at retail to buy the digars we rate. (Yes, it's expensive, but it guarantees that the digars we rate are like the digars you buy, not cherry-picked submissions.) He then gives them a code and replaces any brand labels with generic, numbered bands. The two of us and the rest of our tasting panel smoke the digars blind, which means we don't know the brand name, price, country of origin or any other detail about the digar.

That's the only way to legitimately rate a cigar. It's the only way we've ever do it, and the only way we will ever do it. While some things may change, that's one thing that we'll never change here at CIGAR ARICIGNAGO magazine.

MARVIN R. SHANKEN EDITOR & PUBLISHER DAVID SAVONA EXECUTIVE EDITOR



# out of the humidor

### Dear Marvin,

I just finished reading your Editors' Note entitled "Shame on Apple" [February 2018]. As a subscriber, I was shocked to see that Apple had banned your Where to Smoke applrom the Apple Store.

I too was surprised to learn that if one performs a search on the App Store on the word "cigar" at least eight apps that promote the use of tobacco are available for download on the iPad, and at least five for the iPhone. I was even more surprised by the number of apps that promote the use of cannabis products. The last time I checked, the use of cannabis is illegal at the federal level. As you pointed out in your Editors' Note, cigars are legal on both the state and federal level.

It is a shame that you were unsuccessful in applying reason in your dispute with Apple.

Apple's hypocrisy apparently knows no bounds. When you are the third-largest company in the United States, it appears that you get to write your own rules. David Frances
Albany, Diegon

### Dear Marvin,

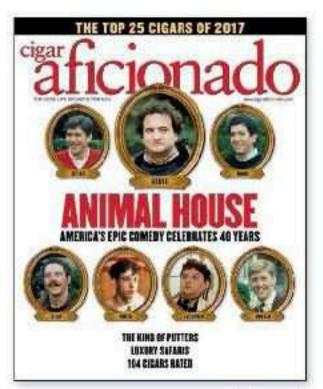
As prior correspondence of mine in years past is evidence, I have been a reader of CICAR ARICIDNA DO since its first edition. Although I must add, I really do feel that you have relegated covering digars and elegant menswear and accessories to a publication about golfing and gambling, evidenced by your relegating the word "digar" to much smaller print in your publication's banner.

Nevertheless, with that said, 1 am absolutely outraged that Apple would remove your very useful Where to Smoke app!

I am not, nor shall I ever be, an Apple customer as a result thereof and, moreover, I shall make this known to my friends and colleagues.

I guess that Apple forgot that one can easily access where to drink a beer, where to sip a Scotch and where to find an escort.

Robert L. Gehzer New York, New York



"Your cover story on one of film's classic comedies, Animal House, had me laughing from the first paragraph."

—Stephen W. Starnes Sr., Philadelphia

### Dear Marvin,

Your cover story on one of film's classic comedies, National Lampoon's Animal House ["The House That Roared," February 2018] had me laughing from the first paragraph. Not only is the movie worth our laughter, but it also opened the door for the multitude of great comedies. It pleases all those who cherish the memories of when and where we were when we first laughed at Otter's suave antics, Boon and Katie's collegiate romance, and Brother Blutarsky's classic counsel to pledge Flounder: "my advice to you is to start drinking heavily."

However, I need to point out one factual error in the article: incorrectly referencing Chris Miller's fraternity at Dartmouth. Chris is a member of the Alpha Delta Phi



Printed in the USA
A publication of Mi Shanber Communications, ac
Worldwide Plaza, 325 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10015
22/684-4224 Fax, 22/684-5424 e-mai etten @cgalufic chado com
work, 26 No. 3

Editar & Publisher

MARVIN R. SHANKEN

Executive Editor Servior Features Editor Art Director

SenorEdwar

DAVID SAVORA JACK BETTE IDGE JOHN THOMPSON CRECOPY MOTTOLA

Associate Editor Assistant Editor/Disting Coordinator Assistant Editor AMBREW MACY BAVIS CLOUCH BLAKE BROESCH

Sen or Contributing Editor Contributing Editors

COPBON MOTT
MULA ENGINEETIN MARSHALL FINE LAURIE KAHLE
MICHAEL KAPLAN LARRY OLMSTER JEFF WILLIAMS

Photo Edito r Associate Airt Directo r Associate Airt Directo r Designer

TOBB MILLED LISA AUDICEMMA HENDY ENC BURNA WITKOWSKI LISA CEODICE KADISEA MACCIO

CASO OTO

Des gner Promot ons Des gner Ass stant Photo Editor Manager Cigar Afic onado Onine

ANDREW HACY

Production Associate New Media
Discource Digital Media
Stell Developer

EDISON A LEON JAMES LAPORTE ANDRADHA UDVAVER

BARRY ARRANG

CONSTANCE MCCHIVEAY

Senor Vice President Ad Sales and Services
Vice President/Associate Publisher
Corporate Advertising
Director Beverage/A coho Advertising
Senor Account Manager New Business
Integrated Marketing Director
Senor Account Directors West Coast
Account Manager West Coast

MIBIAM MODELE STERN MICHAEL MICCOLODICK BARLLYILMAZ KRISTIN JOHNSON LINGGER B DONALD CHERYLLEWIS PAULA COCHRAN E

Southeast Adventising Sales Midwest Adventising Sales Detroit Adventising Sales Arzona Gof Adventising Sales PAULA COCHRAMIT
WHITELED MODPISON CREEN LEAVES MEDIA
SUSAN TAUSTER
CHRISTINE AND ERSON

Adveir eing Evente Manager Adveir eing/Special Projecte Graphic Designer Sales Assistance

STEVE BLIMAN
JENNITER ARCELLA
CHRYSTIE MARINO
MACCIE KOTRANA KATIECOMIN

Vice President Custom Media Adveix sing Services Manager New Media Coordinator

BON CATTERBAM

CHRISTINA CHIATETTELLA

HILADY CHAISON

Director of Fechnology Lead Developer Imaging Prepress

NICHAELTURRO PICHARD OWERS

SAMANTHA SATITO ELI HALPEDN BAVE BOULANCED EDICCHEUNC

Sen or Vice Pies dent Bients Events Director Sen or Events Manager Events Manager Sen or Vice Pies dent Manager gand Circuation

LYMN DITTEN BAND SUSANNAH NOLAN USAC PIRBIN SHAUNTAY DUNBAR LAUN ZANDI PHYLICIA BEDOYA TINA DATWANI (EANN E HOLLY

Senor Circulation Director Assistant Circulation Manager Senor Retal Sales Director Retal Account Manager Events Marketing Manager

TIMA BATWANI ICAMB E HOLLY SHIPEN FELICIEN LIZ MOTT MARVIN D SHANKEN

Chamman
Voe Chamman
Voe Chamman
Senor Voe Pies dem
Senor Voe Pies dem
Senor Voe Pies dem
Senor Voe Pies dem
Cheffinanca Officer
Voe Pres dem Pies dem Voe Pies dem Noer Pies dem Pies dem Pies dem Noer Pies dem Pies dem Pies dem Noer Noer Pies dem Pies de

Assistant to the Chaiman

MICHAEL B MOABA
MEE MAR NON
CONSTANCE MCCILVRAY
LYNN PRITCH BAND
LAURA ZANDI
STEVEN CORBON
JESSICA SHANKEN
KEVIN MULLICAN
SHEENA BELLANZO

Questions about you make on ption? Cai 300/3654525 Questions about your retains en account? Cai 300/344-0763 Fraternity, not Alpha Delta Chi. AD Chi is actually a sorority founded at UCLA in 1925. Alpha Delta Phi, Chris's and my fraternity, was founded by 19th century philosopher Samuel Eells in 1832 at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

As an alumnus and emeritus president of the Alpha Delta Phi International, I wanted to correct the error and commend you for the celebratory article. Brother Miller is one of many in our fraternity's history whose post-college career exemplifies Alpha Delta Phis longstanding literary heritage. Stephen W. Starnes Sr. President Emeritus

Presidem Emeriurs The Alpha Delta Phi International Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Dear Marvin,

Your editorial sickened me. It put the final touch on wanting to rid myself of Apple and go to Android, which I did yesterday. Apple has brainwashed Americans for years to actually even have idiots sleeping outside stores just to be the first ones to buy the newest version. Apple was smart enough to manufacture every version, every size, every color, etc. and idiot Americans fell for it all. On top of that, they've had the most security issues over the past two years than ever before.

Not this guy. I'm done with Apple, and so should every digar smoker out there.

Tony Cavalli

cony Cavani

Trumbull, Connecticut

# Dear Marvin,

Thank you for producing one of the only magazines that I look forward to. I was disappointed to hear that Apple blocked the Where To Smoke app. The glaring hypocrisy concerning the availability of marijuana apps is frustrating, but California is Apple's homeland, so I can't really feign disbelief.

However, there is a workaround: on your Apple device, in Safari, go to wis digaraticionado com. Once there, this can be saved to your home screen, creating a direct link. It even has a default icon of your "digar guy."

Sean Laurie

Santa Rosa, California

### Dear Marvin,

I could not agree more with your editorial in the last CIGAR AFICIONADO ["Shame on Apple,"] Apple's decision, if it cannot be classified as ridiculous, is at least contradictory with its equal rights concepts. A company that supports race equality, freedom of sexual preferences and the use of spirits and drugs like marijuana is being hypocritical at the minimum.

The argument that smoking damages health is unacceptable in Apple's case, and certainly reflects



the personal preferences of Mr. Cook. Perhaps he should be spending his time rethinking the company that he runs, since it is already behind many others that have not only caught up to Apple but are also leading the market.

This kind of decision (and this is certainly my case) stimulates consumers to rethink their position relating to such a prejudiced company.

Vladimir Ranevsky São Paulo, Brazil

### Dear Marvin,

I found Apple's decision to drop your Where To Smoke app appalling. I'm someone who has never used tobacco products and never will, but tobacco is a legal product that should at least be held to the same rights as marijuana.

As a norsmoker, why would I subscribe to CIGAR A FIGURADO? You consistently have very good content and it is an interesting read. This latest issue is yet another fine example, with the pieceon safaris and the long-form Animal House feature. Keep on smokin? Rob Nance

Westerville, Ohio

# "I found Apple's decision to drop your Where to Smoke app appalling." —Rob Nance, Westerville, Ohio

## Dear Marvin,

I am a cigarsmoker and a believer in the First Amendment. Idon't own an iPhone. But your editors are wrong when they state that cigar smokers' First Amendment rights are being denied by Apple. Those rights are guaranteed to us by the Constitution and prevent the government from trampling on them. Private individuals and companies can deny free speech to others with relative impunity and the First Amendment is not violated.

Just as Cigar Africianada can print whatever it likes, Apple can sell whatever apps it chooses and ban whichever apps it doesn't like. First Amendment not withstanding.

Kerry Monigomery Portland, Oregon

### Dear Marvin,

I've been a reader of CIGAR AFICIONADO since the first issue. One of my favorite sections is the Connoisseur's Corner that explores some of the best examples ever produced. Most, if not all, of the smokes reviewed are selections from the Holy Grail echelon of cigars. Itsure would be nice to see what they look like.

Randy Venier

Encinitas, California

Editors' Response: We've never photographed the cigars for that section due to their age, and the fact that we sometimes have only one. But this is a great idea. We have found a way to show you some of the cigars in that particular section—and they look great. Turn to page 115 to see the new and improved Connoisseur's Corner.

### Dear Marvin,

As someone who has been in magazine publishing for more than 25 years, I can appreciate all that you have accomplished. I know how much work goes on behind the scenes to create a great magazine. But in your case, you succeeded beyond your wildest dreams. Congratulations on not only a job well done, but on creating an incredible magazine.

I feel like a newbie to digars, having started only in 2000 when a friend who was celebrating the birth of his granddaughter gave me a Romeo y Julieta. I thanked him and then set it on my desk wondering what to do with it. You see I had purchased a box of El Productos when my first daughter was born more than a decade earlier and they made me turn green. So I wasn't exactly a digar fan. But a week later my friend was at the house for a party so I decided to give it a try. I was in shock. I'd never had a good digar.

The next day I went down to my local to bacconist and asked for a mild digar. He sold me four Don Tomás. It was a great start. It took me two years to finally find the digar of my dreams—Padrón naturals, 1964s and 1926s. I have been a loyal Padrón smoker ever since (so I am doubly saddened to read of José Orlando Padrón's recent death). I'm always gratified to see your editors agree with my taste (or more accurately, I agree with theirs!) having made Padrón "Cigar of the Year" three times—more than any other brand. Your editors' opinions assured me I made the right choice. That is what a great magazine is supposed to do—guide your readers in the right direction.

I picked up my first copy of CIGAR AFICIANADA back when Hemingway was on the cover [July/August 1999]. We look alike and the clerk asked me if that was me on the cover. So I was reading you long before I ever fell in love with cigars. It says a lot about your magazine when the quality of your publication attracts readers who aren't even smokers (yet). I'm also a novelist and you've inspired me to include Padrón cigars in my novels.

I have been a longtime subscriber and fan, and thought after reading your 25th anniversary edition I had to let you and your readers know that from one publishing professional to the other, you and your crew have created a truly magnificent magazine.

Rick Pullan

Editor In Chief, Leaders' Edge Magazine Fredericksburg, Virginia

# Dear Marvin,

First of all 1 would like to tell you how much 1 enjoy reading your magazine. I started to read it when 1 was a student in London.

A few years ago I found a box of Partagas that belonged to my grandpa, who had passed away. As soon as I opened the box the aroma came right to my face and I was transported back with my grandpa in his private library. Much of who I am nowadays is thanks to him, and having a cigar is like being able to be with him again.

Marzio Mari Ahrens Gothenburg, Sweden

Correction: The table on page 61 of the Jan/Peb issue listed the wrong country of origin for the Rocky Patel Vintage 2003 Cameroon Churchill. The cigar is made in Honduras, not Nicaragua.

# BORN IN LOS ALTOS DE JALISCO

MANNY HINOJOSA Tequila Expert

> ARTURO GUTIÉRREZ Cantinero, Bar Imperial

# TEQUILA TADOLIS TAZADOS TAZ

IOO% AGAVE

LOS CAZADORES TOMAN CON RESPONSABILIDAD, DRINK RESPONSIBILY, 92017. CAZADORES, THEIR TRADE DRESSES AND THE DEER LOCO ARE TRADEMARKS INNOVITED BY TEQUIL A DAZADORES U.S.A., SEAL BEACH, CA. TECHILIAS FACH., 42% ALC. BY VOI



Serie V MELANIO

The Standard, in Oliva Excellence

The Oitva family has a long and proud tradition of growing premium tobaccos and producing some of the finest premium cigars.

The Oliva Serie V line of eigars are the finest the family has produced to date and are heralded as some of the most sought after in the eigar world.

#1 Cigar of the afficionado Year

Find us on Social Media @Oliva Cigar





www.olivacigar.com

Oliva Cigar Co. 2018







guide

Living well demands that we include in things that are of superior quality and excellent origin. This guide aspires to find and recommend the best of everything to aficionados of the good life.



electronics 24 SONY 4K HDR CAMCORDER

gourmet 26 MAPLE SYRUP

wheels 29 INDIAN ROADMASTER MOTORCYCLE

time 32 ROLEX COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

drink 35 MEET MEZCAL

Sport 36 PARSONS EXTREME GOLF CLUBS

Cigars 39 QUASAR TABLETOP CUTTER

collecting 42 OLD MASTER DRAWINGS

# You've got it all



LA PALINA
ESTABLISHED 1898

LAPALINACIGARS.COM D f V









# Mount Falcon Island, Ireland

espite coming to the Mount Falcon Estate resort to escape the rigors of the Tour, Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara were anything but subdued once they sat down to dinner.

Barely eating, they vigorously debated the "pound for pound" fighting prowess of Atlantic salmon compared with Steel head trout.

An idyllic 100-acre enclave close to western Ireland's serene River Moy legendary for angling, the Falcon was the ideal historic manor house to stir such fervent banter. A baronial, wooden-beamed structure once used primarily as a nobleman's "country pursuits" refuge, the Falcon provides guests with two miles of private fishing on both banks of the Moy, falconry, a golf driving range, a lounge stocked with Cuban cigars and a dozen champion-ship golf courses within a one-hour drive of the property.

It's hard not to get caught up in the thrill of the Estate. Woods and O'Meara were in high spirits as they left the farm-to-table. The Kitchen Garden Restaurant. Woods jumped onto O'Meara's shoulders, and acting like two young boys, they frolicked outside the 32-room country house, tumbling down the expansive lawn.

"Woods, John Cook, Scott McCarron, Nick Faldo, U2 band members, Joe Biden, they we all come here to switch off their minds, to have fun in this relatively undiscovered part of Ireland," exalts the Falcon's owner Alan Maloney. "Here jewel links courses are half the price of famous southwest [Irish] courses, and our having 15,000 salmon in the Moy is exceptional."

Situated in a woodlands flecked with walking trails near the rugged ocean cliffs along the Wild Atlantic Way, this countryside

haven is only a t 1/2 hour drive from Shannon Airport.

Once known as The Castle, one of the premier fishing and shooting lodges in Ireland, the LB76-built Falcons till honors that noble history by pampering guests with luxury lodges, two spacious suites, and a variety of rejuvenating, highly fulfilling activities. You can walk with a hawk on a gloved fist through the estate's owl-studded woodlands or wander the the restaurant's three-acre garden, with its array of purple asparagus, cucamelon, edible flowers and beehives. A tour offers insights into the farm-to-table phenomenon, and is the perfect prelude to dining amid the nooks and crannies of The Castle's original kitchen.

The Falcon also provides supreme golf. If tangling with gusty winds, tall sea grasses and fear-inducing carries over cliffs is your idea of pleasure, you'll love to play here. On the beachside, Rosses Point Sligo is dotted with raised greens, burns, to wering dunes and engulfing bunkers. Carne is beset by raging winds. Enniscrone affords sweeping views of the ocean.

Net relief is never far here. The therapeutic spa and 17-meter indoor heated pool is one sort of cure-all. The intimate, woodenbeamed Boathole Bar, enlivened by typical Irish good cheer, offersitsownelixirs. In this peaceful, fireplace-glowingsanctuary, premium whiskeys and Montecristos punctuate a day's explorations, allowing imaginations to soar majestically and unfettered like a falcon.

Visit mountfalcon.com

-Edward Kiersh



aybe it's time your video camera caught up with your television monitor. You could have been excused in the HD/t080p TV era if your camera was flat, rectangular, and capable of making phone calls. But if you want to take advantage of the contemporary 4K-display age, capturing landscapes or shooting in the absence of natural light, the hole-punch size lens on your smartphone will always pale in comparison to what you can do with a camcorder. Happily, the new age of user-friendly camcorders doesn't entail carrying a huge box on your shoulder. or any geek-like technical proficiency.

With its sleek appearance, you mightn't recognize Sony's FDR-AX700 4K HDR (\$1,900) as a relative of the camera you owned before the smartphone revolution. Nordoes it perform like it. Its 4K resolution upgrades the old gold standard of t080p with twice the amount of pixels, making it easier than ever for amateurs to shoot professional-grade video. If you're thinking your iPhone, Samsung Galaxy or Google Pixel already shoots in 4K, remember that the Sony 4K HDR facilitates those pixels with a lens, professional-grade sensors and image processors that are simply too large to fit inside of cell phones and smaller cameras.

The 29mm Zeiss lens captures luminous high-dynamic-range video. It's primarily a wide-angle lens, ideal for filming landscapes, but the 12x optical zoom adds versatility, allowing you to capture

Far away subjects without sacrificing quality. The image sensor, which captures light through the lens and transforms it into a digital image, is the same as the one-inch CM O5 sensor that 50 ny uses in some of its professional-grade video cameras. The image processor, which converts raw data into a format that can be stored on a memory card, is the Bionz X borrowed from the company's most expensive DSLR digital cameras.

But don't let these professional-grade specs scare you. The operation of the Sony 4K HDR is essentially point and shoot. Choose between one of the four built-in neutral density filters, press record, and the camera will handle everything else. It even has a built-in HDM1 port, so you can view your footage by plugging it directly into the television.

An ideal camera for travel, the Sony 4K HDR is compact and designed for handheld use. It also features two SD slots to record across two different memory cards without interruption.

Should shooting in true 4K inspire you to step up your Film making game, some advanced options will assist in your postproduction and the camcorder also has a manual setting that provides an easy way of learning the ins and outs of aperture and shutter speed. What else could the budding Spielberg ask for?

Visitsony.com/electronics/camcorders/

-Blake Droesch

# THE FIRST SINGLE MALT SCOTCH FINISHED IN INDIA PALE ALE CASKS



To create our newest whisky we first had to brew our own craft beer just to season our American oak casks.

This is the first release in the G enfiddich Experimental Series, designed to push boundaries and create the unexpected.

Self-fallig crefred, Engagnesson along all missions single Most speed whose least Activity State Imported by William Least Brown for the mark two

# Maple Syrup

ost sparkling wine is not Champagne, and most "pancake syrup" is not maple syrup. Maple syrup comes only from the sap of sugar maple trees, and like kangaroos or gorillas, Mother Mature saw fit to make these endemic solely to one part of one continent, northeastern North America, most famously Vermont but also the rest of New England, New York and Quebec, with some overflow into the Midwest and mid-Atlantic.

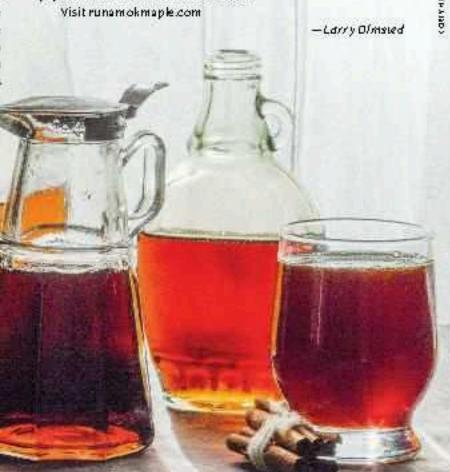
It takes 40 years for maple trees to mature into commercial sap producers, and unlike sticky tree substances, sugar maple sap is clear and thin, like water. It takes 40-45 gallons of sap to produce a single gallon of syrup. This is done by boiling sap in shallow pans until most water has evaporated. Nothing is added, and the entire process is devoted to reducing the purely natural product. to its best and most essential ingredients. By law, maple syrup is just that, but be wary of plays on words like "maple Ravored" or "100 percent natural maple product."

Confusion arises over the range of colors and grades. All real maple syrup is high quality and has nearly the same density, clarity and sugar content (66.9-68.9 percent). It is graded solely by its color, which depends on when the syrup is made. Most production occurs in late winter and early spring, but as trees warm up the syrup becomes darker. A taste difference occurs, and like many red wines, Bayor becomes stronger, richer or "bigger" as the color darkers. For years, the industry confused buyers with an arcane four-tiered grading system from Fancy to Grade A Medium Amber to Grade A Dark Amber and finally Grade B, but this suggests. an inherent difference in quality, which simply is not the case. To simplify matters, Vermont, the best-known syrup producer, relabeled its grades into four more understandable

levels: Golden Color with Delicate Flavor; Amber Color with Rich Flavor; Dark Color with Robust Flavor; and Very Dark with Strong Flavor. In 2015 the USDA generally adopted Vermont's standards for the entire nation, defining all four grades as Grade A by color: Golden, Amber, Dark and Very Dark. You may still see products. labeled with a parenthetical: (formerly known as...).

Generally, lighter syrup is ideal for delicate foods, like ice. cream or yogurt, the darkest is good for cooking and sauces or as a molasses substitute, while the middle grades are perfect for maple syrup's best-known use, over pancakes and waffles.

In another wrinkle, gourmet producers are now making high-quality Ravored variants with real maple syrup. The bestknown is Vermont's Runamok Maple, which taps only certified organic trees—they have BL,000 on the slopes of the state's highest peak Mount Mans field. They make "regular" syrup and a collection of smoked, infused and barrel-aged products, so distinctive Oprah Winfrey named a mixed selection one of her "favorite things of 2016." Runamok produces nearly a dozen varieties, including Bourbon, Rum and Rye Barrel-Aged, Pecan Wood Smoked, Hibiscus Flower or Cardamom Infused, and the wildly popular Cinnamon + Vanilla Infused.





# BORN IN SCOTLAND WITH AN AMERICAN ACCENT.

# OUR LATEST EXPRESSION C

pays tribute to American whiskey's contribution to single malt Scotch and the American oak bourbon barrels that have shaped the flavor of Scotch whisky for generations.

It is matured 14 years in bourbon heritage barrels and then finished in new American oak barrels from Kelvin Cooperage in Kentucky. The resulting whisky combines the smooth, fruit-filled complexity of Speyside with the bold vanilla punch and caramel richness of Kentucky.

U.S. EXCLUSIVE

CERTIFIED KOSHER

# BRICK HOUSE

BY J.C. NEWMAN CIGAR CO.

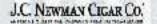
Introducing the new Brick House Double Connecticut. A highly

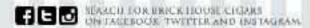
acclaimed Nicaraguan Blend featuring a genuine Connecticut Shade wrapper and Connecticut Broadleaf binder.

An American twist while staying true to its roots, an incredible flavor at a great price.

WWW.BRICKHOUSECIGARS.COM









# Indian Roadmaster

ong ago, my late father placed me between his knees on an Indian motorcycle, engaged its infamous so-called suicide clutch, and took me down the road in a happy mist of rumbling, thunderous, vibrating glee. I was four, the bike was a post-World War II model, my old man was wearing a grin and his aviator goggles, and I was in love.

Such images—whimsical conjurings, really—catch your imagination, your emotions, your longings, and put you in a place you'd far rather be than where you are (like your desk at work). They are personal choices that run a gam ut from horse riding out on the open plains, to rock climbing in Monument Valley, piloting a glider over the Pacific coast, or—in my case—riding a motorcycle damin near anywhere.

Recently, I reconciled my nostalgia with the present day by test driving a bike that links the two: the Indian Roadmaster, a gleaming, jet-black, chrome-accented, nearly 1,000-pound, 1,811 cc (111 cu in) metallic land yacht that comes loaded with accessories (\$29,999).

Founded in 1901, Indian has long symbolized the dream of the open-road—even since the original Springfield, Massachusetts, manufacturer shuttered in 1953 and the name stumbled along from owner to owner, some of whom simply rebranded their imports. The company's most recent—and promising—incarnation builds a

Reet of all-new Indians in Iowa that nod to the touchstones of its original design, but bring the bikes up to date.

Fittingly, 1 visited Dennis Bolduc's Indian Motorcycle of Springfield to ride the newest Indian.

Dennis—a walking, talking, gregarious encyclopedia and collector of all things Indian—gave me a backroads route, and set me free. And while I'm here to tell you that visions of rock climbing never crossed my mind, that Roadmaster Rew like a glider and handled like the best-trained cutting horse you've ever seen. Despite its weight, it handled far better than the 700-pound bike I'm riding these days. At all times it felt like a great pair of skis on a perfectly groomed slope. Wherever I leaned, it went—responsive, lively, hugely powerful, and—when pushed here and there—the tiniest bit skittish, but just enough to keep me aware and appreciative.

Throw in heated seats and handles, crystal-clear audio, cruise control for those open roads, and a large-screen GPS package with all the expected nuts and bolts—intuitively placed and easily manipulated—and you'vegot an idea of how much the Indian has evolved, and how well it's matured from that first ride, now over 60 years ago.

It turns out that quite a few things improve with age. Visit indianmotorcycle.com

-Archer Mayor





# good life guide



# Rolex Cosmograph Daytona

sk any driver here what they 're looking for, and it's one of these," says the champion racecar driver Scott Pruett showing off one of the Rolex watches he owns as a multiple winner of the Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona. "As great as trophies are, there is nothing quite as special as this."

The watch he means is the Rolex Cosmograph Daytona. Launched in 1963, the Cosmograph Daytona was designed to be a high-precision timing tool for endurance racing that measures intervals within one-eighth of a second and has a tachymetric scale for calculating averages peeds. Now it is awarded to winners of the race, which Rolex first sponsored in 1992.

"I still literally get goose bumps every time I come here," says Pruett at this year's race. He retired after his 25th entrance in the race this year (also the 25th anniversary of Rolex's sponsorship). Pruett shares the record for five victories in the famed endurance race with racing legend Hurley Haywood and has quite a few watches to show for it.

Rolex has a far-reaching legacy at Daytona International Speedway, a cathedral of motorsport. Next to the track in the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, you can see Sir Malcolm Campbell's Blue Bird V, which Campbell piloted on the hard-packed coquinasands of Daytona Beach to claim the world speed

record in 1935. The 28-foot, 2,300 horsepower machine hit more than 330 mph as Campbell averaged 276.816 mph, while wearing a Roles. Oyster. The run established Daytona as the place where drivers come to "haul ass," in the words of Pruett.

The most famous Rolex Daytona was worn by Paul Newman, better known as an actor, but skilled enough to win his class at the 1995-24 Hours of Daytona at the age of 70. He acquired the watch, however, in 1969 as agift from his wife, actress Joanne Woodward, at a time when his enthusiasm for racing was dawning. The inscription read: Orive Carefully Me. Newman was sooften photographed wearing the watch, with its creamy dial and black sub-counters (known as a panda dial) that the highly coveted model was dubbed The Paul Newman. His personal Daytona, a present to his daughter Nell's boyfriend James Cox in the early 1980s, recently fell under the hammer for \$15.5 million (\$17.8 million including fees) at a Phillip's auction in New York last October, smashing the record for the most expensive wristwatch eversold.

Less storied versions of the winner's watch can be had for \$16,900 (the rare entry-level watch is \$12,400). Unlike Pruett's, the back of yours won't be engraved with the word "winner."

Visit role x.com

Laurie Kahle

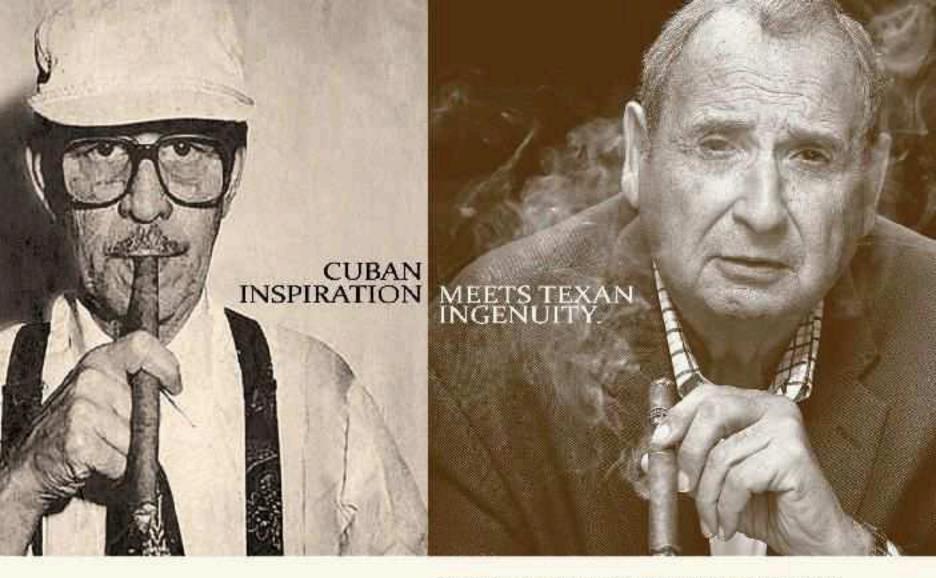


SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Cigar Smoking Can Cause Cancers Of The Mouth And Throat, Even If You Do Not Inhale.

#### FIND MORE BOLDNESS & COMPLEXITY AT:

romeoyjulietacigars.com

@ @romeoyjulieta usa



Micallef Cigars, handcrafted by the Gómez Sánchez family

Micallef Cigars is an alliance between two great families - the Micallef family, whose unwavering commitment to quality has generated successful business sentures worldwide, and the Cuhan-horn Gómez Sánchez family, who have bee's handcrafting award winning, expertly blended rigars since 1934.

617.598.5231 @MicallerCigars 😈 🔾 📵







Excellence in blending and in business - it's a family tradition. Learn more about our legacy and our 'uture at MicallefCigars.com.





A cross section of our cigar portfolio.



# Meet Mezcal

lose your eyes and take a sip of a good mezcal and you might envision the bucolic scene from which it springs. Huge agave piñas roast over wood fire in an earthen pit. A horse slowly traces circles around a mill, pulling the stone wheel that grinds the raw material into juice. Airborne yeast ferments the liquid in wooden vats before a wood-fueled potstill distills it.

Once derided as a crude cousin of Tequila, mezcal is gaining respect and fans through the artisanal traditions that give it its spicy and smoky character. Understanding and tasting mezcal are the keys to appreciating it. First forget the worm. You'll not encounter one in any listed here. Next, know that while Tequila has stricter production regulations (it is limited mainly to the state of Jalisco and made out of nothing but blue agave), mezcal, which can be made in nine Mexican states, takes advantage of the option to use any of about 30 agaves pecies. Espadin is well known in the U.S. Tobalá is the most common of the wild agaves.

Mezcal uses some of the same age designations as Tequila. Joven (sometimes called blanca) is unaged. Reposado indicates two to nine months in wood, and añejo is matured at least a year. Many purists, however, reject aging as they prefer to taste the agave's charms unadorned by wood.

After years of importing industrial mezcal, the U.S. is now privy to artisanal products. The latest is from George Clooney's Casamigos (80 proof, \$60), with pronounced fruits like peach and banana. Chichicapa (92 proof, \$70), part of Del Maguey's Single Village collection, smacks of mint, citrus, salt and oak. Sombra (90 proof, \$45) is a slightly smoky joven, which delivers bright citrus, mint and bread dough flavors. Leyenda makes a blanco in the state of Puebla that is fermented from tobala agave and quite fruity with a mint and toffee (94 proof, \$85). The Kimo Sabe joven combines steamed and roasted agave to produce a bright profile with s weetness, lemon and tea (86 proof, \$40). Cooked in an autoclave instead of oven roasted, Zignum Ahejo lacks the smoke of the othermescals, but at LB months is smooth and sugary with vanilla (80 proof, \$50). Creyente (80 proof, \$60) blends mezcal from two regions for a meaty, peppery taste. Jlegal Aflejo (80 proof, \$110). shows chocolate, fruits and leather. Montelobos (86.4 proof, \$40). achieves a good balance between smoke and spicy jalapeño.

In his comprehensive book *Finding Mezcal* (Ten Speed Press, \$30), Del Maguey Founder Ron Cooper lists 40 cocktails made with mezcal, but a good digar also makes a great mixer.

Jack Beuridge







# PXG Golf Clubs

nyone who would name his company Parsons Extreme Golf, or PXG, isn't going to be subtle. And Bob Parsons believes he sigone to the extreme to create the finest clubs. money can buy -quite a lot of money -say \$5,000.

After founding the Internet domain-name giant GoDaddy (Parsons sold most of the company for GoZillions in 2011) he got hooked on golf. Soon Parsons was spending \$300,000 a year on golf clubs and decided to make his own. Now six years later, Parsons Extreme Golfturns out distinctive looking clubs that are custom-fitted through distinctive golf facilities across the United States and, he says, 30 countries around the globe. Parsons, who renders the final verdiction every club his designers come up with, knows who his audience is.

"We look at PXG as a luxury brand rather than a golf club. brand," says Parsons. "We don't believe we compete with most golf club companies that cater to the entire market. We don't go to the PGA show in Orlando, we don't sell through discounters or big. box stores because we believe that is not our customer. That's maintaining the integrity and persona of the brand. Our clubs have to be eye-opening performers."

Parsons from have a forged appearance, but the forgiveness of cavity-backed clubs because a cavity is hidden inside the head. The head has a perimeter of shallow ports that allow for custom balance. The face of the irons is super-thin with a thermoplasticelastomer behind it to prevent cave-ins and enhance feel.

"Our wedges are the only ones that are 100 percent milled," says Parsons, "We use a machine that cuts each wedge out of an tt-pound block of steel. The milling process takes four and a half hours for each wedge. Our grooves conform to USGA requirement, but they are very precise, very close to what the limit is. The design is very appealing to the eye." Drivers and fairway metals are complex and weighted to square the clubface at impact. Of course, he makes putters, 12 different models.

Parsons also wants you to have an "Experience," For \$17,500, "The Experience" lets you spend three days at the Scottsdale Mational Golf Club (which Parsons owns) being fitted for clubs and playing three rounds of golf. Two nights at the Four Seasons Resort, some meals and other amenities are included. Then there's the "Ultimate Experience." For \$100,000, youget a four-day club fitting and playing experience for two people with private air transportation from anywhere in the United States.

Tour pro Billy Horschel, a winner of the AT&T Byron Nelson. this season, plays and endorses PXG clubs, speaks of the Bob Parsons effect, "Bob wants to build the best product possible and use the latest, best materials to do that," says Horschel. "So he built clubs that cost a lot more than the others out there, but they also perform really well. I think, even to his surprise, he found a market for them bigger than what he expected."

Visit pag.com

-Jeff Williams



IT'S NICE TOBE

"If you're going to be wanted for something, be wanted for something great."

-Cornelius Bailey, AKA Straight Shooter

That's exactly what Cornelius Bailey set out to do five generations ago. And he's been wanted for growing the finest tobacco ever since.

#### CORNELIUS

If you're looking to nab a notoriously great cigar, your just reward awaits.

# SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:

Cigars Are Not A Safe Alternative To Cigarettes.



MAKE IT COUNT

Cornelius And Anthony.com

You'd be forgiven if you mistook Colibri's newest cutter for something that may have broken of Follon's Musk's Falcon Heavy rocket during its historic space launch in February. With a cosmic name and sharp, protruding angles that are reminiscent of a child's abstraction of a star, the Quasar certainly appears like it could be a futuristic object that fell from the heavens. The Quasar is not built for space travel, but instead is a two-in-one cigar cutter built for your tabletop. And it just happens to be one of the best on the market.

The Quasar tabletop cutter (\$125) is the newest in Colibri's Quasar series, which includes an ashtray and limited-edition humidor. The line's hallmark is the pyramidal motif that's carried throughout. It drew inspiration from the shapely Hearst building in New York City as well as the hobinal pattern on Colibri's Molectric lighter from the 1960s. Elegant, yet masculine, classic but also futuristic, the Quasar cutter commands the eye's attention. But the real beauty of the device is what's housed inside its cuboid shape.

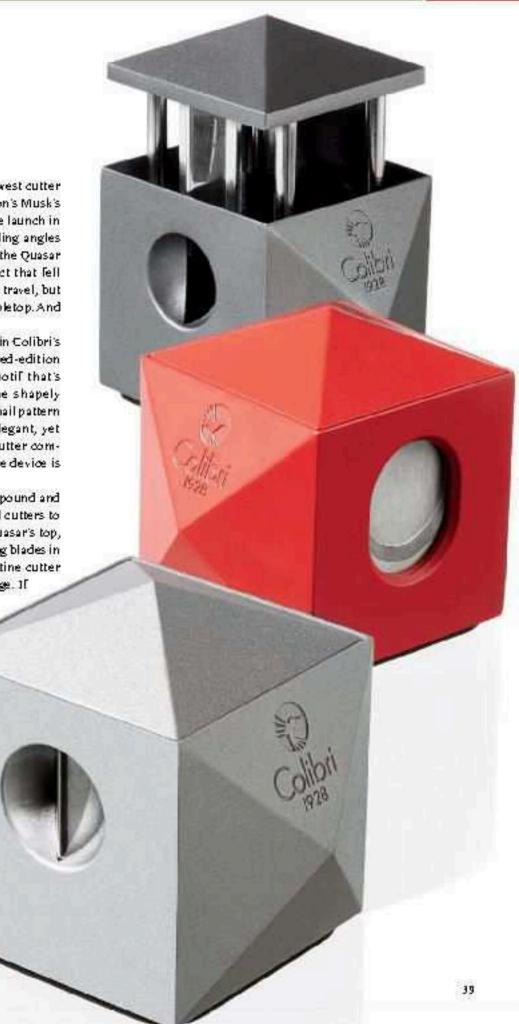
Built from solid metal and weighing about one pound and five ounces, the Quasar features two stainless-steel cutters to snip your smokes. When you push down on the Quasar's top, four oiled pistons pop up and reveal the unit's cutting blades in unison. On one side of the cube is a double-guillotine cutter capable of swiftly snipping cigars up to 70 ring gauge. If you prefer a wedge cut, or cat's eye, opposite the straight blades is a V-cutter option that can handle smokes up to 60 ring gauge.

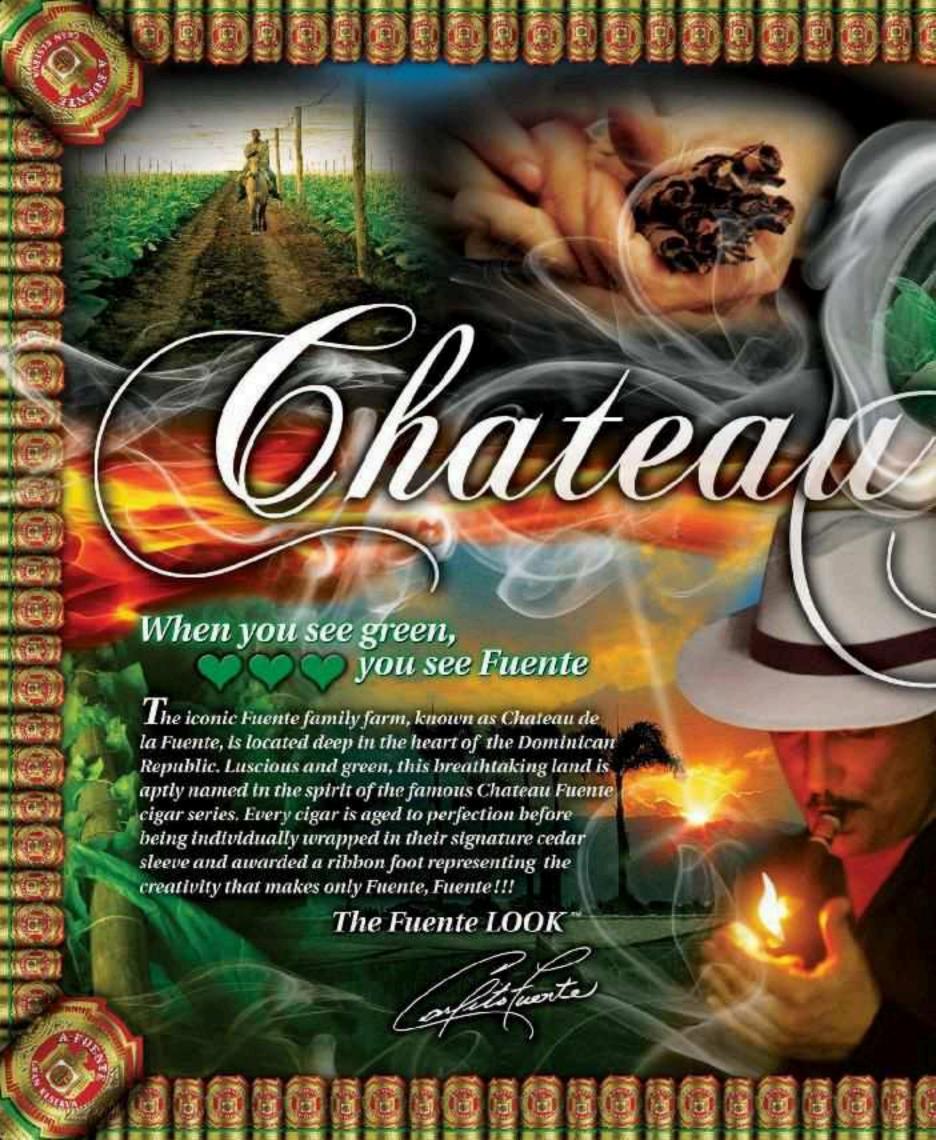
The oiled pistons ensure that the cutting action is smooth, and both blades are more than capable of easily cutting digars of all shapes, from figurados to parejos. The clippings collect in an inner chamber, which is accessed and emptied via a twist cap on the bottom of the unit. Additionally, a rubber gasket on the bottom of the Quasar prevents it from slipping or damaging your desktop.

While the Quasardoesn't come in space-suit white, it is available in black, red, gunmetal and silver.

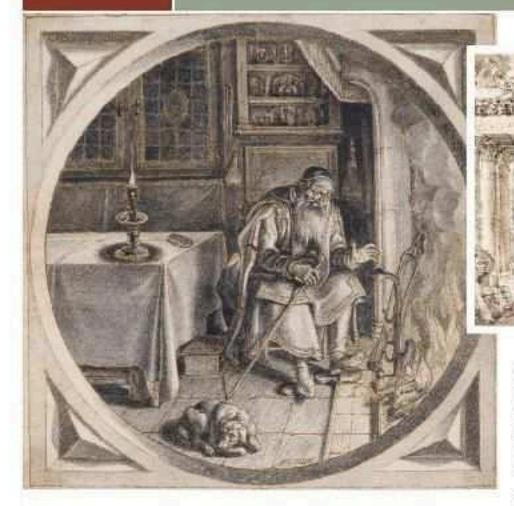
Visit colibricom

-Andrew Nagy









#### colorful frescos in cathedrals and palaces that feature pully clouds and hovering putti-winged cherubs-but the image I purchased is somewhat more, um, accessible. It's part of a series of drawings, many of which reside in the Metropolitan Museum's prestigious Robert Lehman Collection. The auction datalogue discreetly described it as "Caricature OFA Man Seen From Behind." That's code. For a fellow relieving himself on the sidewalk.

thousand bucks. The artist may be best known for his

These days, art galleries and auction houses display their works online, giving you the ability to zoom in and study every. detail of a drawing before deciding whether to make a bid. Their own experts also scour smaller auctions for overlooked treasures and you can, too. Value depends not only on the fame of the artist, but also the condition of the work. After all, they're just ink or pencil on paper—very old paper.

"Feel free to contact the auction house," says Lobkowicz. "The experts are always willing to talk to you and will have a better understanding of the market."

While future financial return is a possibility, the best advice always is to "Buy things you like to live with," Lobkowicz advises.

> And then there's the bragging rights. Picasso's 1955 painting Les Femmesd'Alger Fetched \$1794 million at Christie's in 2015, But some of his drawings cango for less than you'd pay for a vintage watch and impress your friends and neighbors even more. I've made back the investment on my drawing in the pleasure it gives me. And I won't lie. It's also Fun to tell visitors, "That's a Tiepolo."

Visit sothebys.com

-Ralph Gardner Jr.

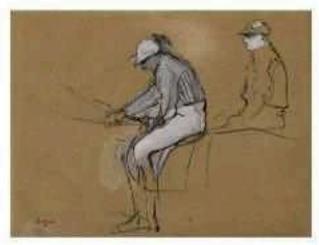
# Old Master Drawings

aybe you can't afford the \$450 million that a Leonardo da Vinci o il painting recently fetched at auction. But if you're willing to set your sights a little lower many drawings by Old Master painters are well within reach.

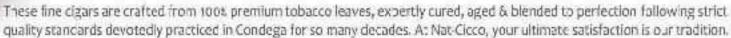
"You can get a drawing for a fraction of the price but it's still the work of the same genius," says Elisabeth Lobkowicz, an Old Master paintings specialist at Sotheby's. "We have drawings from \$1,000 to \$1 million." She adds that drawings—smaller and more. intimate than paintings—let you feel as if you were standing

alongside the artist, looking at the same scene, as he worked. Whether a particular drawing is a study for an ambitious painting-e.g. Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling-or something that simply captured the artist's eye at a distant. moment, it "is the handwriting of the artist," Lobkowicz explains. It could be Rembrandt as he knocked off a Dutch landscape. Or Giovanni Battista Tiepolo as he sketched street life scenes in LBthcentury Venice.

I know because I bought a Tiepolo at auction a few years back for a couple of













GLFDCIGARS 🖸 💟

# Standing

Joe Manganiello made his mark by sculpting his body, but the cigar-loving actor has dreams of succeeding on the other side of the camera

### BY MARSHALL FINE PORTRAITS BY PETER YANG

STYLING BY MILL SIMPLES FOR TRACET WATCHIST
SIMPLES BY MANA SERVICE FOR ART-REPT
SOIL by Joseph 800 and - Sweden by Theory



oe Manganiello relaxes in a chair by a large card table in a sprawling basement rec room in his Beverly Hills home, right next to the man cave where he keeps his humidor.

Manganiello, who has been talking about his cigar collection, looks up and smiles when his wife, actress Sofia Vergara, pokes her head into the room. Vergara, as breathtakingly striking in person as she is onscreen, returns his smile as she says, "Would anyone like something to drink?"

After a housekeeper brings the beverages, Manganiello (pronounced MANG-uh-nello) takes a moment to recall the first time he understood that fine tobacco required a more sophisticated approach than he'd known.

"It was probably after I started "True Blood," the Pittsburgh native says, taking a sip of his water. "There was a digar bar on Sunset Boulevard next to the Sunset Towers. They had a great back patio, where I used to go all the time to read scripts or have meetings or just meet friends. I just stumbled upon it—and they had Cubars. You can get fake Cubars a lot of places, but they had the real thing. A couple of the guys there had watched "True

Blood and knew who I was, so they opened up the wall safe and pulled out a bunch of Cohibas. I smoked those with them and kept coming back."

In person, the six-foot-five Manganiello is imposingly welcoming, towering but warm. Though he's dressed casually in black jeans and a long-sleeve, steel-colored Henley shirt, he can't disguise the powerful build underneath. While gray has begun to dominate his beard, the saltand-pepper facial hair belies an otherwise youthful face: a hawkish profile that features a strong chin, aquiline nose and eyes which can harden on screen to the Clint-like squint of a seriously, tough guy or soften to reveal the funny,

emotionally attuned human within. He has the lanky looseness of an athlete, someone who has learned how to live in that large frame, and a boyish enthusiasm that takes over when he talks about digars.

"I probably started collecting seriously—with a really good humidor—in 2012 or 2013," he says. "There's some debate about which is my oldest [cigar], but I have an '05-'06 Partagas that's probably it," he says. He has a dwindling stash of special Cuban Cohiba cigars reserved for dignitaries as diplomatic gifts "with the seal of Castro," he says. They're powerful. "These cigars will put you on your ass—they're real elephant legs. We smoked a couple when my brother had his first baby. They're for special occasions. I've got five and once they're gone, they're gone."

The room where Manganiello's tall humidor resides resembles a glassed-in medieval dining room, complete with a banquet table and chairs. On the wall is a realistic-looking dragon's head—Manganiello is a big fantasy fan.

He's also a fan of cigars that are fat and powerful. "I like a bigger ring gauge, and I like a strong digar," he says. He has a

special affinity for Partagas cigars, which he explains as he takes out one rolled in 2008. "My favorite—these are delicious;" he says. "And I have a drawer of Daniel Marshall for everyday. They're a little more affordable."

Cigars play a role when Manganiello acts. "When you're on the set, you have downtime—when they re changing the camera or setting the lights," he says. "So I will start acigar. When they're ready for me, I put it aside. And when I'm done with the scene, I light up and keep going while they set up for the nextone."

At age 41, Manganiello has had ample opportunity to light up on set, appearing in two hit Magic Mike films and having a four-season run as a heartthrob werewolf on HBO's "True Blood." On April 20, he will appear in the big-budget, action-fantasy Rampage, opposite Dwayne Johnson. He also dipped his toe into the DCE xtended Universe as super-villain Deathstroke, popping up in the role at the tail-end of the credits of 2017's Justice League. Manganiello will get a more extended shot at the character when he plays opposite Ben Affleck in the upcoming The Bauman.

It's telling which aspect of playing Deathstrokegets him talking: "I have to wear a mask, and there's a real style and technique to that," he says. "Mask-work is something I haven't done since I

was at Carnegie Mellon."

Yes, Manganiello is a bit of a theater nerd. Or just a plain nerd, period. There's a lot more to the man than just his muscles.

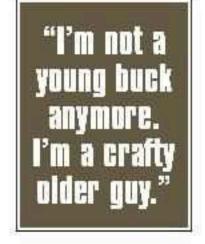
"It's the most surprising aspect about Joe," says Brad Peyton, who directed Manganiello as an ultra-tough mercenary in Rampage. "I'm a giant nerd, a proud video-gamer who loves things like Dungeons & Dragons. And Joe is the same way—in the body of a six-foot-five musclebound human being."

"Joe is not all brawn by any means," says actor Adam Rodriguez, who became friends with Manganiello on the set of Magic Mike. "He's a really intelligent guy. I think he's an artist in the

body of an athlete. And the bastard has the body of Adonis."

"From the moment I met Joe, I was just blown away by his strength, his muscles and his look," says Arnold Schwarzenegger, Manganiello's idol. The two worked together on the 2014 film Sabotage. "In the 170s, he could have easily been on stage at a body building show. He has that classic muscular look that everyone wants. But it's what I found behind the muscles that really impressed me. Joe has a huge vision, and he's also a sweetheart of a guy, with a huge heart. He's the kind of guy who dotes on his wife, gets you the perfect gift for your birthday or shows up to give away toys in East L.A. to less fortunate kids. Don't ever look at the six-pack, or eight-pack, or 12-pack, or whatever he has now, and think that's all he is."

The rippling physique that has become Manganiello's trademark is the product of long hours of work in the gym. He even wrote a 2013 book on fitness called *Evolution*. He looks like a man who has lifted for his entire life, but he didn't focus on weights when he was a high school player. "I was askinny kid, but a good athlete," he says. He was drawn to the arts long before athletics.







Manganie id with his idd Arnold Schwarzenegger (top, from Sobotoge), in HBO's "True Blood" (right) and with Channing Tatum (above) in Mogic Mike.

His impulses toward creative expression began years before Manganiello sprouted into the tall teen who dominated his high-school football and basketball teams. He was tracking toward a college sports scholarship, until a football injury left him with a torn-up knee and the time to audition for the senior musical.

"As a kid, I was an artist. I painted and wrote and created stories," he says. "But I was a good athlete...In Pittsburgh, that's just what you did. It was late in the second half of high school when I got hurt. It was time to figure out what I wanted to do professionally. It became clear when I got back into the arts. I realized that was what I was really passionate about, that this was the way to be artistically fulfilled. Then I figured out how to have a career as an artist that was also partly athletic."

Hedreamed of applying to a hometown institution: the highly selective Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. He auditioned during his senior year of high school, only to be rejected. "I wasn't really ready," he admits: "While I'd been playing sports, everyone else had been performing and focusing on that. By the time I got out of sports, they were way ahead of me. When I auditioned, I didn't really know what I was doing, and they did."

He took a year to hone his craft," working my assioff," he says, and went back for another audition, this time getting in. "It proved to be such agreat place to work. Role after role now, I still blow the dust off the old tricks I learned back then. Like acting with a mask."

Marganiello always had a natural athleticism. But being in front of the camera requires a different kind of commitment to his art. He may not be a bodybuilder, but he had to look like one. He gradually developed an appreciation for the kind of body sculpting necessary to be an action star.

"I liked being healthy, feeling healthy," he says. "And it's fun to push your physical form around." Chiseled, cut, ripped—choose your adjective and it describes Manganiello, whether he was shedding his clothes (just before he turned into a large wolf) in "True Blood" or as a male entertainer in Magic Mike. But Manganiello maintains that the emotional challenge of acting is more daunting than the physical demands of body building.

"Working out is fun," he says. "But playing Stanley Kowalski eight times a week? That's tough. That's the real challenge."

He's in no hurry to go back to theater:
"I have to say I love the exhibitation of film sets. I love the permanent, yet Reeting nature of film. It lasts forever but it's the only time you'll perform it. And so you put everything you've got into that moment. That's really exciting to me. I do love the live audience in theater: the feedback, the interface. But film is what made me want to be an actor."

Manganiello seemed to make an effortless leap from Carnegie Mellon to Hollywood. He was cast almost straight out of college to play Peter Parker's high school nemesis, bully Flash Thompson,

in the 2002 Spider-Man. The film was a hit, but Manganiello was unable to capitalize on that auspicious debut. "That film was amazing," Manganiello says. "But then—well, I needed to quit drinking." He'd struggled with alcohol addiction from high school through college, and once in Holly wood, he went off the deepend at the first taste of success. "My life was ruined. I was homeless, careless and broke with no career," he told Man's Health in 2016. Sitting in his home now, he says that he stopped drinking, started working construction jobs and eventually got to a place where he was ready to start auditioning for acting roles again. "When I got the drinking taken care of, the work came back," he says. "It was just my time. I needed to handle all that."

Manganiello has the look of a romantic hero, and he played that role in "True Blood," the show that really launched him during his 2010–14 run. But he shown he can deftly handle comedy as well. He's appeared on hit TV sitcoms like "How 1 Met Your Mother" and "Two and a Half Men," and while his Magic Mike role may have been built around his physique and physicality, it played to his comic talents as well. "He brought a kind of goofiness to that role, a willingness to be absurd," says Steven





# SHERRY CASK CONNOISSEURS SINCE 1826

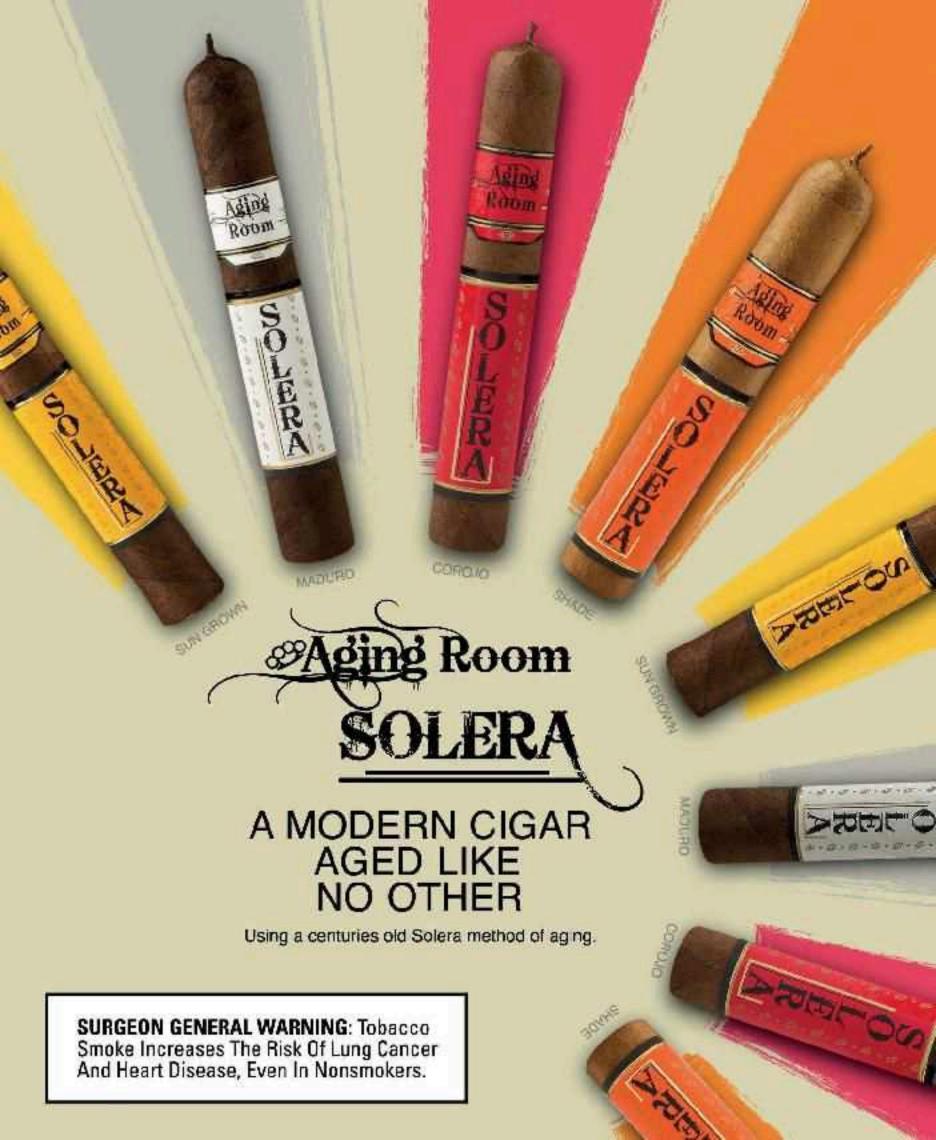
Nestled deep in the east Highland hills, The GlenDronach Distillery has been quietly mastering the art of sherry cask maturation since 1826.

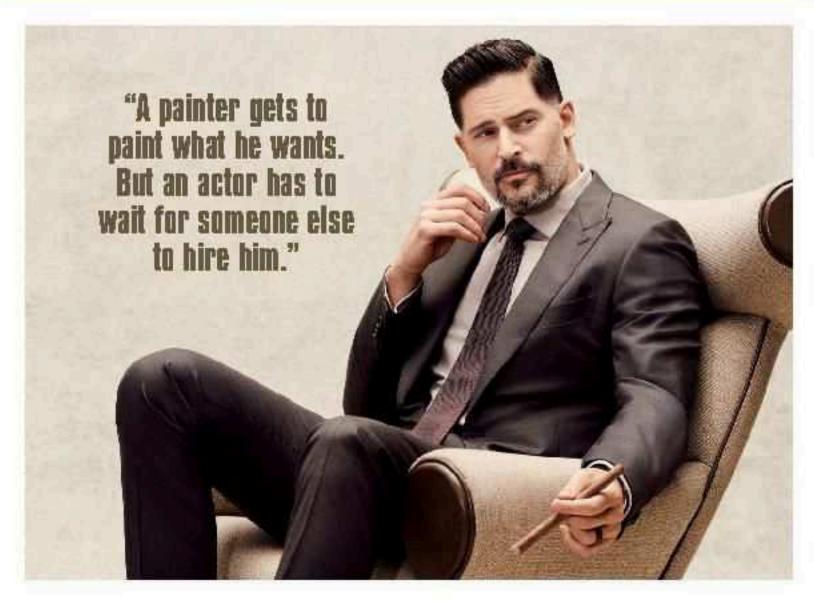
Here, in the valley of Forgue, the finest Pedro Ximénez and Oloroso cherry casks hold our spirit. After years in the quiet darkness of our dunnage warehouses, these casks are relied into the light, a dram poured from their depths. Every cask will have its moment; it takes patience and skill to recognise it.

Each GisnDronach Highland Single Mait bears the influence of long years in the finest alterry cacks: complex, elegant single malts of remarkable intensity, with rich depth and a lasting finish.









Soderbergh, the Oscar winner who directed the film and produced and shot its sequel. "He had this understanding that this character is someone who takes himself seriously—and that there's adeep vein of humor in a character like this. Joe was in on the joke and understood totally how to play that rich comic figure. He was inside and yet able to look at it from a distance."

Manganiello even appeared in the 2016 Rec-wee's Big Hofiday, opposite the goofy and childlike character Pee-wee Herman. At one point, the massive Manganiello is clad in the same slim-fit, gray-plaid suit and red bow-tie as the much smaller Pee-wee.

"Doe's sense of silliness is the reason 1 like him so much in the movie," says Paul Reubens, who has played Pee-wee for nearly 40 years. "A director friend of mine wrote me after it came out to rave about Joe. He said, "There's not a single hint of irony in his performance" and 1 thought that was a huge compliment... He's a phenomenal actor."

The film also changed the profile of some of the fans who recognize Manganiello when he's traveling. (The lifelong Pittsburgh fangoes to as many Steelers games as he can.) "1d get girls, but 1'd also get guys who knew who I was but would say, 'My girlfriend would kill me if Ididn't get a picture with you," Manganiello says. "And I'd think, 'Why not just admit you want a picture with me?" Doing the film with Reubens means his demographic now also can

skew younger. "Joe told me a few months ago that, when he's in an airport, he gets little kids saying to their parents, "Look—it's Peewee's friend," "says Reubens. "Although I will say that when I hang out with him, he gets plenty of recognition from women, too."

But there's only one woman for Manganiello: Vergara, to whom he's been married for two years. It is the first marriage for Manganiello, who met the Emmy-winning "Modern Family" star in 2014 and proposed marriage six months later.

"The biggest adjustment in marriage? Coming to grips with the idea that someone who is not related to you could possibly love you that much," Manganiello says. "There's nobody 1'd rathers pend time with. She was it for me.

"Peoples by things like, "Marriage and relationships are work,"
But it's not. Life is hard. Having somebody to help you deal with
it is the greatest thing that ever happened. It's such an easy relationship—easy in all the right ways. Looking back on the
relationships I had before this, I think the universe was giving me
some tough practice so I'd get this right."

Manganiello and Vergara will appear together in this year's Signo, an independent film that he developed, produced and stars in. He plays a one-time baseball phenom whose career is derailed before it gets started, and who must reassemble his life after almost 20 years in prison. "I read the script and knew it was a great role for me—then it was a five-year struggle of getting it made," Manganiello says. "It's a story about redemption and putting your life back together. It's more like what I used to do in college dram a school." The straight dramatic role is the first step in his plan to create and produce films of his own. "There was a teacher at the Moscow Art Theater who summed it up this way: You have to be an artist, but you also have to be a bill-payer," says Manganiello. "And you have to make them both be happy. So I'm the one who pushes me. Youget offered the last thing you did. But most artists want to continue to grow, to move on to the next thing. That's the challenge to a career as an actor. A painter gets to paint what he wants. But an actor has to wait for someone else to hire him. As an actor coming up, you take jobs you're not passionate about, or you lose jobs you would be passionate for."

Although Stano is small budget, Manganiello has dreams to make bigger films as well. "I want to get to a place where I can finally shape things the way I want them. I want to be able to write, direct, produce, act, and do it in my own bigbudget sci-fi feature. And I want to write and direct and act in a really nuanced independent film. I've started the long trajectory toward those goals."

"The good news is that he's focused on expanding his ability beyond just appearing in front of a camera," Soderberghsays. "Anyone who understands the business and wants to do that is smart. If you're an actor still waiting to be called to work, you don't know what you're doing."

Part of his long-term vision stems from turning 40 last year. "It probably hit me during Magic Mike XXL that if we even thought of doing another one, we wouldn't be young anymore. Turning 40 solidified that," hesays with a smile. "I'm not a young buck anymore. I'm a crafty older guy."

Manganiello has forged a friendship with Schwarzenegger, another digar-smoking drafty older guy, who wrote the foreword to Manganiello's fitness book. "He has the ability to put a smile on anyone's face," Manganiello says of the former California governor. "He makes people feel good about themselves. He takes really good care of himself and he's incredibly smart. Hesmashed all the stereotypes about bodybuilders. Arnold is proof that Renaissance mendo exist. I asked how he gets so much done and he said, 'You have to learn to sleep faster.'

For Schwarzenegger, the feeling is mutual."1 think if you tell Joe to do to reps, he would do 20," Schwarzenegger says. "That's just part of his intensity. When he does something, he isn't content with doing it halfway. He isn't even content with doing it too percent. He has to go beyond."

Manganiello's urge to go beyond his recent résumé and make smaller, independent films will have to strike a balance with Holly wood's interest in turning him into an action star. Peyton's

experience directing Manganiello in Rampage has whetted his appetite for more: "He's an artist mixed with a gamer geek. He puts his creativity into those worlds, which is why he's so good in movies like that. He just gets them. I'm actively looking to work with him again."

Asked to reveal something people wouldn't guess about Manganiello, Soderbergh chuckles and says, "Most people don't know Joe wears super-thick glasses. He's really blind without them. There's this assumption you have that he's perfect, but the first time you see him in the glasses, you go, "Whoa, wait a minute." It's like a Clark Kent moment." Which is interesting given Manganiello's close call with playing Superman in 2013's Man of Swel and its sequels. Considered for the role, he ultimately couldn't reconcile conflicts with his "True Blood" obligations.

As Manganiello takes on the role of DC super-villain Deathstroke, he should end up with plenty of opportunities to fill his spare time on the movie set with more than a few choice digars. "I don't shy away from them. Cigars are a great way to socialize. That's the beauty of a digar: A good one takes an hour, or an hour and a half. The way attention spans are going, everyone spends their time fiddling with their phone and doing everything they can to not pay attention to the person they're sitting across from. But a digar forces you to bond with other human beings."

Manganiello sometimes smokes cigars with the Terminator. "When you smoke a stogie with Joe, the intensity dissipates with the smoke, and you can see his sense of humor, his heart, and his intelligence," says Schwarzenegger. "You can have a long conversation about any subject that will last through a full smoke and then some, and both of you will leave feeling better off."

Manganiello remains focused on the future. And it comes as no surprise that the man who works so hard in the gym to build his body doesn't take any part of his current situation for granted.

"I can't sleep unless I know I've done my best," Manganiello says. "I can accept failure, or 'No,' if I did my best. I don't wake up in acceptance. When I wake up, my first thought is, "There's work to do.' When I lay my head down at night, I have to accept where I'm at."

"Am 1 happy with my life? Absolutely. But the finish line is constantly moving. When 1 was younger and greener, 1 probably thought there was one finish line and a race to get over it. When 1 got older, 1 realized there is no finish line—you just keep going and going and going. And whatever happens in your life is fuel for what you do in your work." •

Contributing editor Marshall Fine is critic-in-residence at The Picture House Regional Film Center in Pelham, NY.





# With knowledge







aficionado





he Masters is soon upon us,
and for those in the cold climes, we've already gotten
the clubs out of storage, rid them of cobwebs, bought
a dozen new balls, taken some achy swings on the
range and made those initial forays down thawing
fairways. As spring comes out of hibernation the
annual rite of golf, the Masters, bursts into the golf
spectrum like a supernova. Azaleas, Magnolia Lane, Rae's Creek,
Amen Corner and the green jacket combine for the games ulti-

There is a cherished certainty to the Masters, its home the gracious and graceful Augusta National Golf Club. We know what to expect every year—plenty of birdies and eagles, round-killing double bogeys, dramatic lead swings and a brilliantly stormy march through the back nine on Sunday where all the greats of the game have made their mark.

There is another cherished certainty that we all play into—we don't know who is going towin, but we love to make a prediction and may be put down a few bucks on the outcome, even if it's just a five-spot with a friend. While golf isn't a big betting entity at the Las Vegas sports books, it has gained some momentum over the last to years, and the current crop of highly competitive players makes the betting prospects for this year's tournament diverse and appetizing.

This we know about picking a winner: He has to be long off the tee (at least long enough) and be precise with his irons, has to have one heckura shortgame, be able to putt lights out, and most important of all, has to have steady nerves to manage his game and enough nerve to take on a challenging shot on the back nine on Sunday when winning is on the line. It's a tall order to join the greats of the game. Here's who we think have the best chances to claim victory when the tournament concludes on April B.

## THE BEST BETS

#### 10 Sergio Garcia

mate field of dreams.

This is a sentimental choice, just like Garcia's playoff victory in the 2017 Masters was a sentimental culmination to his career. Only three players have won the Masters back-to-back: Tiger Woods, Nick Faldo and Jack Nicklaus. We are talking iconic players here, and Garcia never made it into that category despite a spectacular start as a 19-year-old when he finished second to Woods in the 1999 PGA Championship.

But Garcia is an accomplished player with nothing to apologize for in his career. He won three times last year and was the European Tour player of the year. Can he do it again? We have watched him hover around the upper echelons of the game his whole life, watched him win the 2008 Players Championship, watched him spearhead Europe in the Ryder Cup. For him, it almost always comes down to the putter. If the putts drop, his chances soar.



Sty ish and smooth swinging Rickie Fower is a fan favorite. Winning the Masters would give him his first major.

#### 9 Jason Day

It just seems like Jason Day is ready to wear a green jacket even though he didn't win a single tournament in 2017. After a combined eight victories in 2015 and 2016 and becoming No. Lin the world, a bad back, injuries and his mother's cancer diagnosis held him back and he dropped out of the world top 10 in 2017.

With his mother seemingly healthy after lung cancer surgery, 2018 offers a fresh start. His best two finishes at Augusta were a while ago—he tied forsecond in 2011 and placed third in 2013. That 2011 finish was the only time Day broke 70 in the final round at Augusta. He said in 2017 that his mother's illness turned him away from the game, broke his concentration and stinted his desire. But a desirous Day is a dangerous Day. He's got all the tools for Augusta. If he uses them properly, he's going to be on the leaderboard.

#### 8 Hideki Matsuyama

This man will become the first player from Japan to win a major championship and over the last three Masters his name has been on the classic Augusta leaderboard many times. His highest finish, in 2015, was fifth.

Matsuyam as distinctive swing, with the pause that refreshes at the top (à la Bob Murphy, but twice as powerful) seems suited to Augusta where his natural draw is the natural fit. And he always seems under control, even though he seems rather perplexed by

every shot he hits. One hand comes off the club and you think it's going miles wide of the green, only to end up to feet from the pin.

Matsuyama has five PGA Tour victories, two on the European Tour and will surely overtake Isao Aoki as Japan's most successful player. Aoki never won a major, losing a stretch battle for the 1980 U.S. Open title to playing partner Jack Nicklaus at Baltusrol. Matsuyama is a better ball striker, and is going to win one of those stretch battles.

#### 7 Rory McIlroy

Picking McIlroy is a dicey prospect, but you can't rule out this prodigious talent. McIlory, who has four major championships and only lacks the Masters for a career Grand Slam, failed to win anywhere in 2017 (well, he did get married). He was hampered by a rib injury that caused him to take considerable time off. Assuming that he's fully healthy, he then becomes fully viable as a Masters champion.

His best finish was fourth in 2015, but he is rather infamously known for blowing a third-round lead in 2011 by shooting an ignominious 80 in the final round. Let's just say it didn't sabotage his career. He romped in the U.S. Open that June for his first major. If he manages his prodigious length off the tee and his putting is fine-tuned, there's no way he shouldn't contend.

#### 6 Rickie Fowler

He's a very popular player with a very nice Tour record, but upon closer examination Fowler has only won four times. In 2014 he finished fifth in the Masters and no worse than third in the other majors, seemingly a harbinger of great things to come. He's been a contender, but hasn't been able to close the deal.

Fowler has already shown that he's capable of playing Augusta Mational, though in his seven appearances he has shown a propensity to throw in one bad round a tournament. In 2016 that was an BO in the first round that caused him to miss his only out there.

At least two things will need to go his way to win his first major at the Masters—he will have to avoid big numbers and will have to putt better, especially the shorter ones where he has always been a little suspect. There may be no more popular winner if Fowler dons green.

#### 5 Jon Rahm

We don't know yet how good this 23-year-old Spaniard is going to be. He came to Arizona State without speaking English. He left Arizona State speaking Ruently and impressing everyone with his powerful, controlled game. ASU alumnus (and three-time Masters winner) Phil Mickelson, whose brother Tim coached the golf team, has no doubt about Rahm's future. "Jon doesn't have weaknesses," Mickelson said after Rahm won the Farmers last year. "Every part of his game is a strength. I think he's one of the best players in the world. There's an intangible that some guys have, where they want to have the pressure put on them, they want to be in that tough position. They want to have everything fall on their shoulders. He has that."

Rahm made his debut in the Masters last year, finishing 27th. There's no reason not to expect a higher finish and agreen jacket fit for Rahm's wide shoulders.

#### 4 Justin Thomas

The PGA Tour's 2017 player of the year was more than impressive—he was downright dominant. Thomas had five victories in the wraparound season, a 59 in the Sony Open last January, his first major at the PGA in August and a victory in the Tour playoffs at the Dell Technologies Championship in September.

He's only played the Masters the past two years, finishing tied for 22nd in 2017, but this is the tournament he relishes more than any other. It's the emotional component, the desire he will have to control. Thomas is a very aggressive player, and being aggressive at Augustacan pay off handsomely or drown dreams.

There's no doubt he has a complete game and drives it crazy long considering he's a mere 145 pounds. There's no doubt he's up for hitting the challenging shot. He hit three of them in the final round of the PGA, icing the victory with a magnificent 7-iron to the water-surrounded par-317th hole for birdie. Measure him for a green jacket. He'll eventually wear one.

#### 3 Justin Rose

Justin Rose just looks like a winner. Last year he had a shot at his first green jacket, losing to Sergio Garcia in a playoff. In 2015 he tied with Phil Mickelson, finishing second to Jordan Spieth.

We know Rose has what it takes to win a major: after all, he pulled off a two-stroke victory at the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion, beating out Mickelson and Jason Day, becoming the first Englishman in 43 years to win that championship. He also has two victories in World Championship Golf events. Rose's journey from heralded amateur to struggling professional to top-10 player in the world is great testimony to the sort of fortitude the Masters demands. He has an impressively positive attitude that helps a lot when the vagaries of Augusta National start nipping at the scorecard.

He handled the playoff loss to Garcia last year with his usual class. He said if he had to lose, it was Garcia that he would prefer to lose to. Class generally pays off at the Masters.

# Masters of the Masters

Eight men have won three or more Masters. Here's how we rank them.

#### 8 Jimmy Demaret

1940, 1947, 1950

The first man to win three Masters champonships. His 1940 victory capped a string of four consecutive tour wins by the game's original fashion plate.

#### 7 Phil Mickelson

2004, 2005, 2010

One of only three players with a left-handed swing to winthe Masters Mickeson secured his first majoritte at Augusta by sinking an 18-foot bild equation the final hole.

#### 6 Gary Player

1961, 1974, 1978

Ho man has payed in more Masters than
Payer His SZ starts have given him three
victories. At age 62, he became the oldest
player to make the cut (a record is note broken)

#### 5 Sam Snead

1949, 1952, 1954

Slammin Sammy who holds the record for most RGA Tourly ctories won the Masters threet mes Helmade history in 1949 when he was presented with the green jacket, the first time Augusta awarded this noteworthy prize





Sam Snead (top) was the first winner to be draped in the green jacket. Jack Nick aus (above) owns more than any other man.

#### 4 Nick Faldo

1989, 1990, 1996

Sir Nick tasked victory at Augusta three times and hels one of only three men to win consecutive Masters victories along with Tiger Woods and Jack Nick aus

#### 3 Arnold Palmer

1958, 1960, 1962, 1964

He won four times at Augustalitying for second all time—and held dilt in a mere six years it was at Augusta Hational that agallery of dedicated fairs made up of servicemen would first be dubbed "Arnie's Army"

#### 2 Tiger Woods

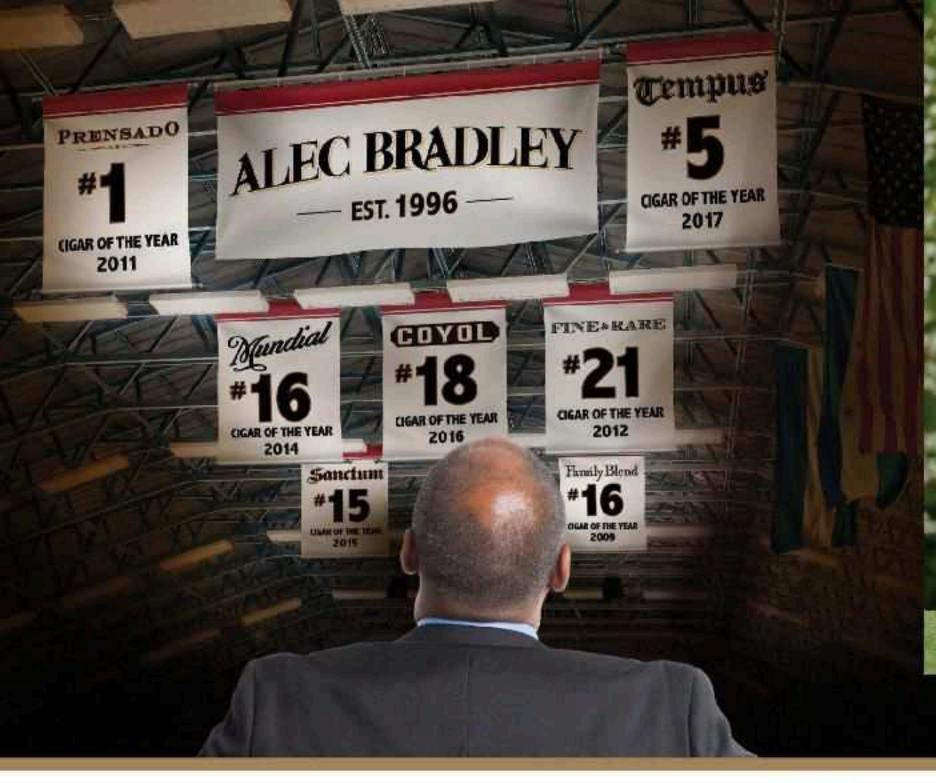
1997, 2001, 2002, 2005

The youngest player to win the Masters
21-year-old Tiger Woods brought Augustato
ts knees in 1997 setting records for biggest
many nof victory (12 strokes) and lowest
score. Helowins four given jackets

#### 1 Jack Nicklaus

1963, 1965, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1986
The Golden Bear roaned to fielat the Masters winning for the first time in 1963 at 25 years old. He holds the record for most Masters wire (s.x.) has the most Top 10 finishes (22) and made a record \$7 cuts. For added measure, his deimapacked 1986 victory at the age of 46 years. 82 days made him the oldestip agent even to win the Masters—and filled middle-aged golf fairs with direams of beating the riyounger friends the next time they hit the links.

-David Savona



#### Top Cigar Ratings Are Great.

Earning a world-wide fan base - even better.

Our formula for success is simple. We blend and craft cigars we love. Confident you'll love them too. Thank you to all our fans around the globe, for making Alec Bradley one of the fastest growing cigar companies in the world.











91







92





90







90





















With his spectacular drives and an improved short game, Dustin Johnson will come to Augusta ready to win his first green jacket and second major.

#### 2 Jordan Spieth

As long as he plays, this young superstar will always rank among Masters favorites. With a magical short game and a maestro's putter, Augusta National will be his for the taking for a couple of decades to come. This tournament—and this golf course—have suited Spieth since he first played in 2014. In only four appearances, he has one victory (2015) two second-place finishes (2014 and 2016) and his 11th-place finish last year. He famously blew a five-stroke lead on the back nine on Sunday in 2016, hitting two balls in the water on the devilish par-312th for a quadruple bogey seven, but most of his Masters me mories have been pleasant ones.

Spieth has a sneaky long driver. He isn't going to be outdriving. Dustin Johnson, but he won't be too far behind him, and that means he can reach all of Augusta's par-5s in two. He should have a lot of two-putt birdies on them. And if he has to lay up, his wedges will get him close enough for birdie nearly every time.

Spieth already has one green jacket. There's a good chance he could eventually have an entire closet-full.

#### 1 Dustin Johnson

Johnson lapped the field at the Sentry Tournament of Champions at the start of 2018, looks to be clearly the world's No. I player and ticks all the boxes when it comes to the attributes required for victory at Augusta National.

He came into last year's Masters as the betting favorite, having won three straight tournaments earlier in the season, then he slipped walking down stairs in his rental house, injured his back and had to withdraw just before his opening round. But a fully fit Johnson is a physical masterpiece, and he appears more than capable of painting a masterpiece at Augusta National. His best finish inseven appearances is fourth in 2016, but he's dramatically improved his short game over the last two seasons, and that will serve him extremely well.

Given that he is one of the longest drivers on the Tour (he nearly aced a 400-yard par-4 in January) his wedge play is critical to his success, especially when many other players will be hitting two or three clubs more into Augusta's perilous greens. Combine a big hit with a soft touch and that equals success at the Masters.



## THE TIGER FACTOR

If Tiger Woods is as healthy as he looked at the start of his season, then his return to the Masters in April for the first time since 2015 is highly promising. This much can be said about his chances to win—you can't pick him and you can't ignore him.

In the three events he has played through the Honda Classic in February, the fourtime Masters champion looked better than he has in the last four years, taking bold swipes at the ball like the Tiger of old and not the old Tiger. Back surgeries had shortcircuited one of the all-time greats in his early 40s—he last won the Masters in 2005. Jack Nicklaus famously predicted when Woods was a teenage amateur phenom that he would win to Masters. It isn't going to happen.

He made the cut at the 2018 Farmers, his first cut on the PGA Tour in 29 months, finishing three under par and in a tie for 23rd. He missed the cut at the Genesis Open, then flirted with the leaderboard at the Honda Classic, where he drew massive galleries. He finished at even par and 12th on a very tough course. Importantly, Woods short game seemed to be clicking, and that had been a big question mark the last four years.

There seems little doubt that a healthy Woods can win again. Pros who have played with Woods (Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler and others) are impressed. He took enough out-right slashes at the ball in the Hero World Challenge in December to suggest that some sort of mini-medical miracle has taken place. Now it's a question of getting tournament tuned.

His psychological fortitude is unparalleled, and there is no tougher player to face on the back nine on Sunday than Tiger Woods. That toughness seems to be there. He ground out his scores and seemed well grounded doing it.

We always keep our eyes on Woods. Now we'll keep our eyes on him at Augusta.

# Cigars at Augusta

here's something about the bygone-era charm of Augusta Hat one that makes simplying a cigarat the Masters a tradition on the any other

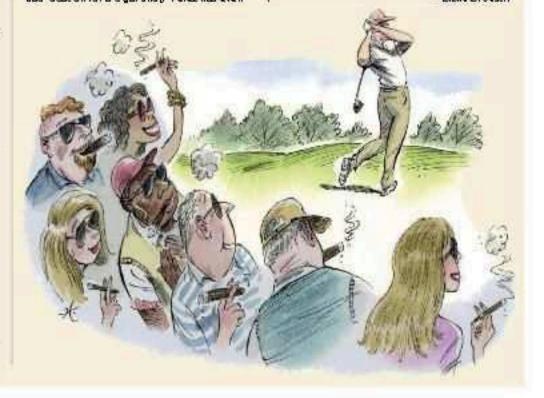
'Masters week is the equivalent of our entire Christmasseason' says Risse. Wilder owner of Top Shelf Cgar in Augusta. Wilder glewing across the street from Augusta and his qualit shop and lounge enoys a nice bump in business every first week of Apri.

Masters week accounts for nearly 12 percent of Top Shefs annual organises. Progo fis one of the last organism frendly spectator sports so many fairs—whether they are requiar smokers or not—take advantage of the last opportunity with a organin hand. "West light our fairs have of seasoned organism kers in the shop," says. Wilder "But for other people who come in it might be the only organishes smoke all year."

Then there are Augusta's ongtime tournament badge holders. These lucky folks have the pleasure of returning each year to indured in the ritradition of walking the stored grounds with a logar have customers who have been coming in for 20 years "explains Marce a Perez lowner of Marce als Fine Cigars & Tobaccos in Augusta "They only come in once a year but they a ways come back."

Marce as a ocated just haif aim eight in the gates of Augusta Nationa—certainy not a bad location for a cigar shop. Perez has even had the opportunity to attend the Masters
She went to the final round in 2014 and enjoyed acigar while watching Bubba Watsondonia green jacket for the second time. 'Go fland cigars' she says in her unassuming southern down, they just really go together.'

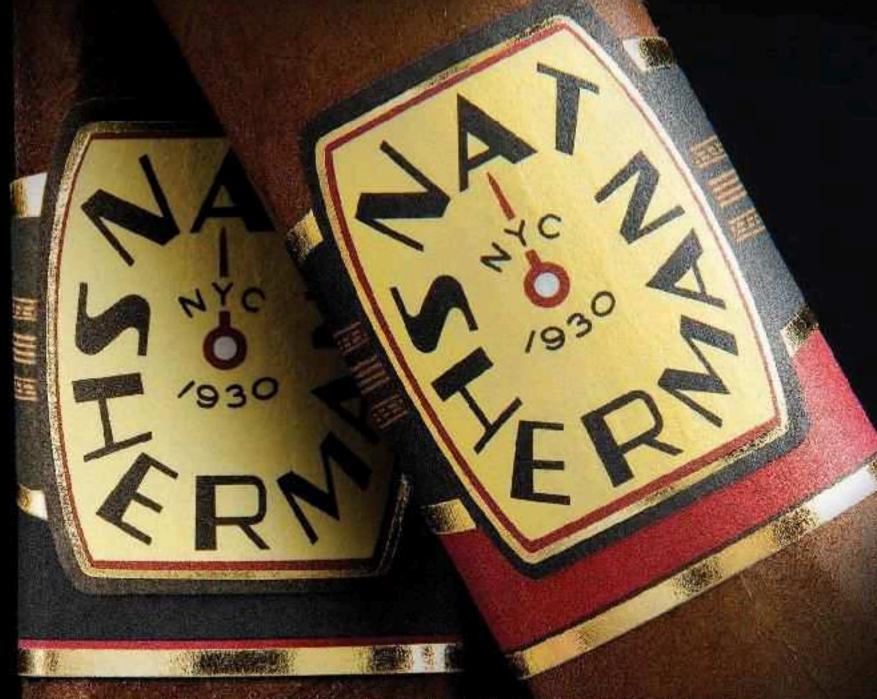
- Alabo Donosch



# TINCUP° MOUNTAIN WHISKEY

A few thousand feet above it all, there's a place unlike enywhere else in America. Where the floor is made of rock, the ceiling is made of stars, and the whiskey is unlike eny other. Made for people who live for the mountain, and those who dream to be there. Mountain Whiskey.





# TIMELESS COLLECTION

4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN CIGAR AFICIONADO'S TOP 25

"A HANDSOMELY BOX-PRESSED TORPEDO OFFERING A RICH RANGE OF MOLASSES. OAK AND SEMISWEET CHOCOLATE."

CIGAR AFICIONADO - TIMELESS NICARAGUAN 652T

"A SIGN OF NEWFOUND ENERGY AND COMMITMENT NAT SHERMAN HAS MADE TO ITS CIGAR BRAND."

CIGAR AFICIONADO - TIMELESS DOMINICAN NO 2

NICARAGUA

93

93

91)

92

DOMINICAN

I.BOO.MY.CIGAR

WARNING: Smoking cigars regularly poses risks of concer of the mouth, throat, laryne, and esophagus similar to smoking digarettes.

#### The Green Jacket

ts certainly no fash on statement a box-cut jacket with brass buttons and a pocket embiem dived in a color that bridges at pairing. Heyercheigs the green jacket is the most covered preced appare in the sports word. You can legit mately wear to intwo ways become one of the 300 or so members of Augusta National Gof Club or win the Masters its annual tournament. Just incase either happens to you it is best to brush up on some background and store tips.

At the 1957 Masters ic ublich a man Clifford Roberts made the unform a fixture for members, who are expected to wear their packets during the tournament to identify themselves to spectators seeking information. When hosting guests in the clubhouse it also ets the waters know who gets the check.

Should you will the previous year schampoint will help you into a cose-fitting jacket borrowed from a member (Beware they bewitton Jack Nick auss first victory and he doked like he was in a tent.) After the hoop a you be measured for your own jacket made by Hamiton Taloring Colin Cincinnat.

The jacket does not come with carte bianche to parade your go fing provess. You keep of for a year but are expected to wear tony at go file ated events. (Ph. Micke sons wearing his to a Krisgy Kreme direct hough was frowned upon). At the next Masters you return your



jacket to the club where its kept in a special room. You log it out (and back in) when you yest Gary Player got a stern phone call from Roberts when he kept his too long.

The uniform hashit a ways been uniform. The original heavyweight-wool hopsack version proved too steamy. Subsequent makers ghisened the cloth and in the 1990s. Ham ton settled on a wool/goly blend from a Georgia m. The buttons are stamped in Connect cut and the embern made in Horth Carolina. Those who wish to splunge can turn to Henry Poole of London's Saville Row who custom makes jackets using wool serge from a Yorkshire m. You light working sleeve button holes and the option for extra compto hide accessories, ke also inhone or a

cigar case. But do not expect to dicate the design.

The unform sist of yaithree-button (remember only button at the middle) natural-fit jacket with notch lages flag pockets and alsing elvent.

Accessor and with the jacket's color can be as the enging as Augusta's greens its ateate shade described as Pantone No. 542 if you're wearing a greenite became to match precisely. Dark blue stripes may be a better option. Khak pants will appear muddy so going befor pick black ordark blue.

Of course there sanother path to a green packet—buying one. Green Auctions soid the one awarded to the first Masters winner. Horton Smith, for \$682,229, in 2015.

- Jack Be thridge

#### THE LONG SHOTS

#### Xander Schauffele

Nothing her aided Schauffele's extraordinary rise in 2017. He tied for fifth in the U.S. Open, won the Greenbrier in July, the Tour Championship in September and was rookie of the year. This will be his first Masters.

#### Brooks Koepka

The reigning U.S. Open champion put on a virtuoso performance at Erin Hills in 2017, driving it long and straight, hitting plenty of greens and making birdie putts, a game that could translate to Augusta. Last year, at his third Masters, he played the par-5s in 10 under.

#### Marc Leishman

Leishman was a first round co-leader at the 2013 Masters, eventually positing his best-ever finish of fourth. His most impressive

major was the 2015 Open Championship at 5t Andrews where he shot 64-66 to make the playoff with winner Zach Johnson and Louie Oosthuizen. Today he is playing at his best.

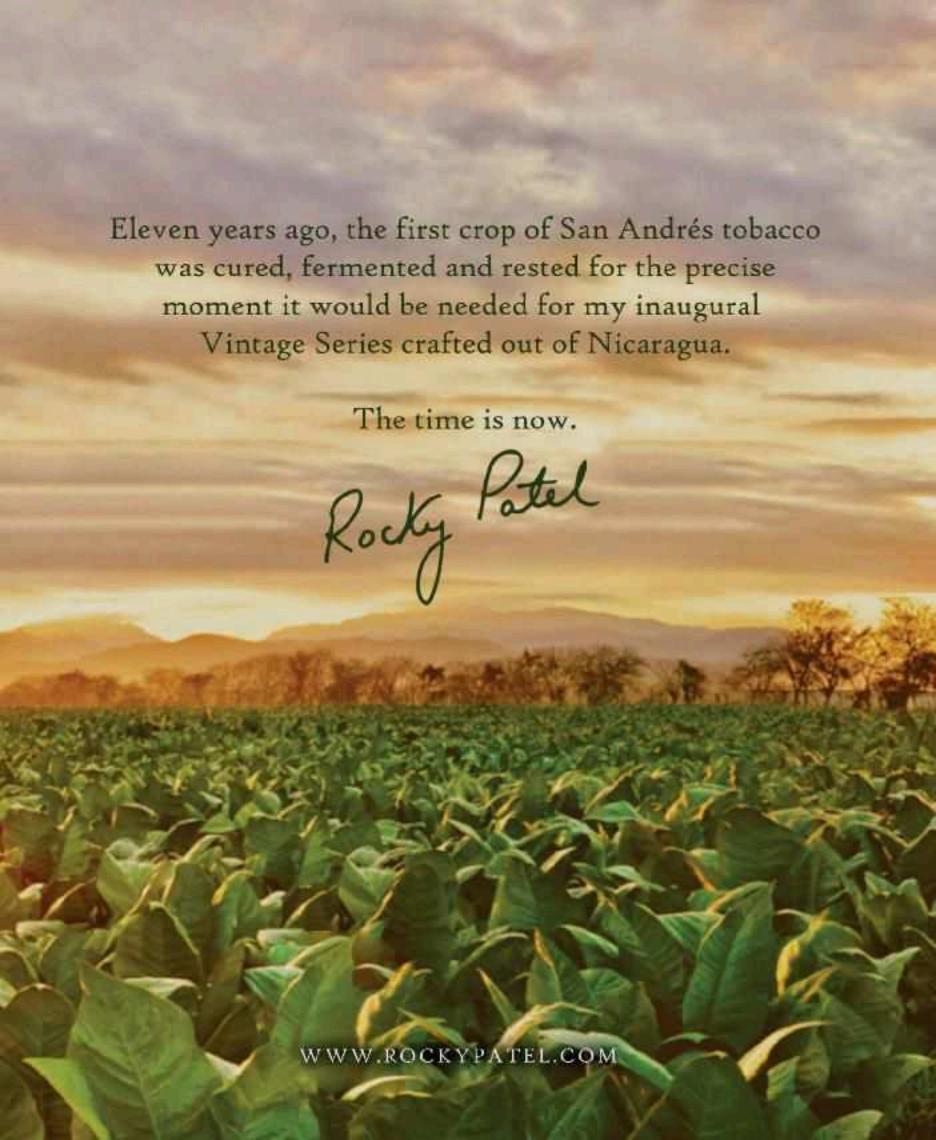
#### Brian Harman

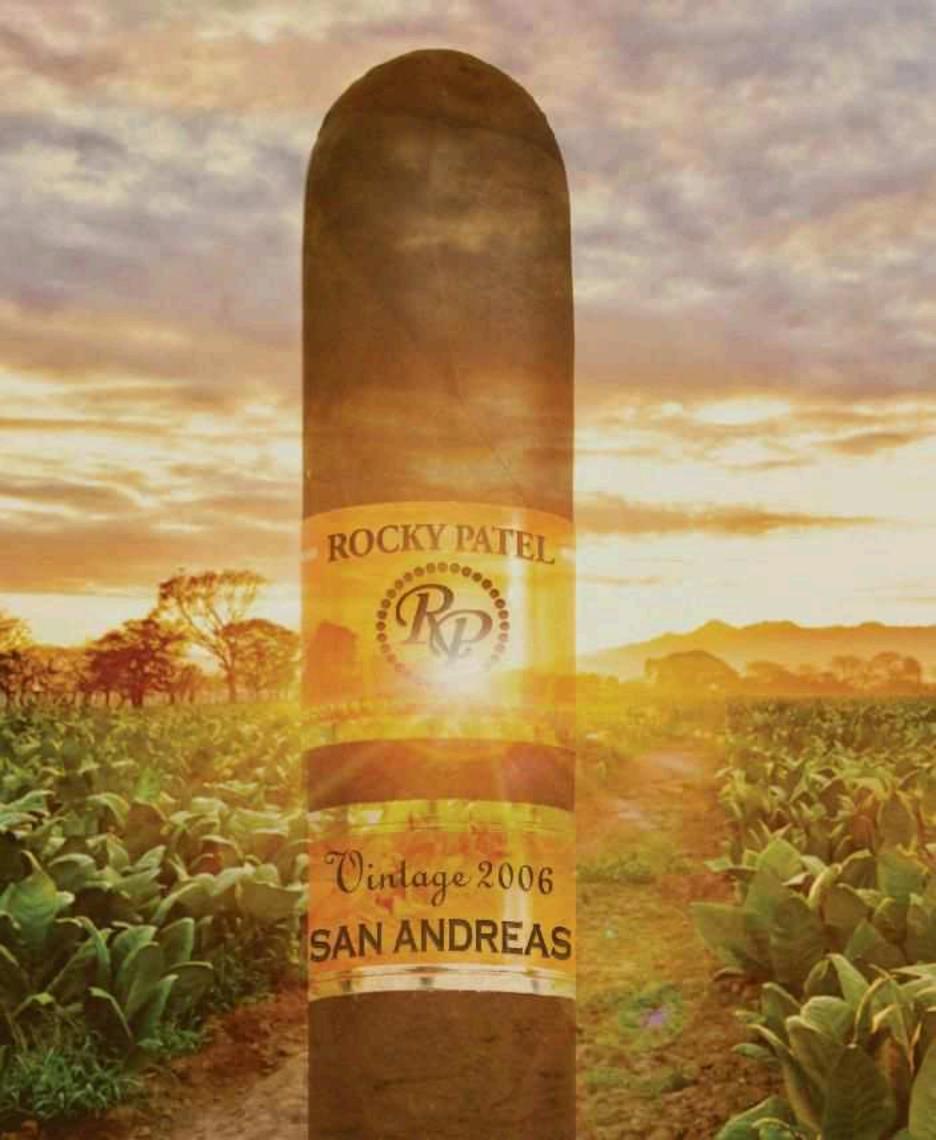
Harman's 5-7, 150-pound frame doesn't match up to some of the physical specimens he's facing, but he's overcome a lot to get to where he is in the game. And he knows the heat of a Sunday major, shooting 72 in the final round of the U.S. Open last year to finish tied for second. Harman has one appearance in the Masters.

#### Dat Doroz

By mid-2016, Perez had only one victory since turning pro in 1997, and after shoulder surgery, he was wondering if he would even have a career. Now, with two recent victories, he's playing the best golf of his life and has a top-20 ranking. Maybe, just maybe. �

Jeff Williams is a CIGAR AFTGIONADO contributing editor.











Hennessey daims the 1,600 harses under the haad of its Venam F5 can take it to 301 mph, which would make it the fastest street legal car in the world.

HE CLOSEST THING I CAN IMAGINE WOULD BE STRAPPING MYSELF INTO AN FA-18 FOR THE THRILL OF A CATAPULT LAUNCH OFF A NAVY CARRIER.

Instead, I'veslipped into the new Bugatti Chiron, belted up and given my co-driver the thumbs up. This time, I'm only along for the ride. At \$2.7 million a pop, I can't argue when it's "suggested" I first take a check ride to feel what it's like when a 1,500 horsepower coupe takes off in anger down a nearly three-mile straight. So, after firing the beast up and running through a check list a pilot might admire, he gives me back the thumbs-up, revs the engine a couple times, slips the transmission into gear and hits the throttle.

Carrier launches can generate 6Gs or more—that is, six times the force of gravity—and without specially designed pressure suits pilots would black out. The Chiron can only deliver a tG launch but that's still enough to drain the blood from my eyes as 1 sink deep into the Bugatti's heavily bolstered sports seat. By the time 1 can focus again and turn to check out the speedometer we've already blasted through 60. It took a mere 24 seconds, and four seconds later we've topped 125. But the Bugatti keeps on pulling, topping 200 mph in barely 15 seconds. We've already used up a fair amount of pavement, so the driver decides to back down before quite reaching the 250 mark.

The recently introduced successor to the spaceship-like Bugatti Veyron lays claim to being the world's fastest street-legal production automobile, though it faces some surprisingly intense competition for that crown from an expanding array of products like the American-made Hennessey Venom F5 and Sweden's Koenigsegg Agera R5.

They re all street legal, albeit with price tags that only a onepercenter might consider. Churning out horsepower numbers that push well above 1,000, they make more familiar muscle and sports cars, whether the sleek, 640-hp Ferrari 488 GTB or the ballsy 840-hp Dodge Challenger SRT Demon, seem tame. Indeed, they are so powerful and blindingly fast that they require the unique sobriquet of "hypercars." Exactly what that means, however, is a matter of debate.

From the days of the very first automobile, buyers have been craving more power and performance. "The fascination for high speed has lost none of its appeal to this day," read a statement from Daim ler AG earlier this year, marking the BOth anniversary of race driver Rudolf Caracciola's record 268.9 mph run down a stretch of Autobahn near Frankfurt. He drove a specially modified Mercedes-Benz race car. Even the most exotic vehicles available to consumers of the 1930s could barely top 100. It wasn't until the 1950s that products like the Jaguar XK120 and the Mercedes Gullwing SL made triple-digit runs possible on a routine basis.

While it might not be the first brand to come to mind, some experts credit Ford with coming up with the first true supercar, a street-legal version of the GT40 race carthat it designed specifically to take down Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mars, which it won from 1966 to 1969. The production version, introduced in 2004 as simply the GT, made what seemed almost impossible at the time, a whopping 335 horsepower and 336 pound-feet of torque. It could hit 60 in just 5.1 seconds and topped out at 172 mph.

Today, any number of vehicles lay claim to being a "supercar," a term that actually dates back to the 1920s. An ad for the Ensign 6, a behemoth meant to challenge the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, declared the sedan to be "The supreme development of the British super-car." Today, the Collins English Dictionary describes supercar as, "a very expensive, fast or powerful car with a centrally located engine," a definition that can cover a lot of territory, including familiar models like the Porsche 9tt Turbo and pretty much anything from Lamborghini or Ferrari. But hypercars take things "to the next stage," says Don Sherman, a long-time racer and a veteran reporter for Car and Oriver magazine. "They we got even more power, less weight, more technology and a lot more performance." If you want something more definitive, hesuggests, "It sgottage 250 mph, certainly wellover 200, which has become almost common place these days."

No car fit that definition better than the Bugatti Veyron.

Vitesse model which captured a Guinness world record for street legal cars with a top speed of 267.856 mph. The roadster version hit an average 254.03 mph during testing in April 2013.

After taking an order for the 500th Veyron, Bugatti of ficially ended the production run in late 2014. But it wasn't about to close up shop, unveiling a successor model, the Chiron. By then, the race was on and a growing list of worthy competitors has since thrown down the gauntlet hoping to best Bugatti at its own game. The numbers have grown ever larger and faster, with the Hennessey Venom P5 rated around 1,600 hp. But for those who think even that—and a top claimed speed of 301 mph—just doesn't cut it, a small, Mideast-based start-up may finally be pushing the upper limits. Making its debut at the Dubai Motor Show last November, the appropriately named Devel Six teen is claimed to deliver a jaw-dropping and necksnapping 5,000 horsepower from its own, quad-turbo, L6-cy linder engine. Devel promises the two-seater will top out somewhere around 310 mph—albeit without any official test runs. And it can be youts for \$1.8 million, a relative bargain in today's hypercar class.

Plenty of skeptics question whether Devel can deliver on its claims, something we may not know for another year or two. But one thing seems certain: with new billionaires being mintedevery day, there's plenty of money out there to support the hypercar industry. And some intriguing new technology that change the way the game is played.



Long, low and sleek, it featured the sort of outrageous design that might have seemed more appropriate on the set of a sci-fi flick. The Veyron EB 164 was unveiled in 2000 and marked the revival of the legendary brand founded by legendary designer Ettore Bugatti nearly a century before. (Volkswagen AG purchased it in 1998 as part of a campaign to dominate the extreme luxury and performance market. Other examples of such VW acquisitions include Bentley, Lamborghini and, more recently, Porsche.)

With its unusual, quad-turbo, W-L6 engine — referenced by the L64 in its name — Bugatti boasted that the Veyron would become the first-ever, street-legal, factory-produced vehicle to deliver L,000 horsepower. The concept was so bold that the BBC declared it "Car of the Decade" before the first one even rolled out of the factory in 2011. The original version set a top speed of 253 mph, but Bugatti engineers weren't done yet. They steadily amped up the L6-cy linder power plant, capping their efforts with the Veyron Grand Sport

With the launch of the Tesla Model 5, the Silicon Valley automaker showed that electric cars don't have to be slow and ponderous. With its optional Ludicrous Mode, the Model 5 Pt00D edition can match the Bugatti Veyron's 0-to-60 times. Then there's Rimac, a Croatian start-up whose Concept One is not only being billed as the world's fastest electric vehicle but a hypercar in its own right, making 1,224 horsepower and capable of hitting 60 in a mere 24 seconds. Mean while, late last year Tesla CEO and founder Elon Musk unveiled the company is second-generation Roadster, declaring his intent to "give a hardcore smackdown" to vehicles running on internal combustion engines. It will create a mind-boggling 10,000 pound-feet of tire-spinning torque, he promises, and will hit a top speed of 250 mph. How far it will get on a full charge at that speed, well, Musk isn't saying. But speed is the enemy of energy-efficiency for any fuel type. In a flat-out run, the Bugatti Veyron would empty its 26-gallongas tank in just 12 minutes.



#### Clean Air Defined

Official air purifier of the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers (IPCPR)



Effective . Quiet . Stylish . Air Purifiers For a free catalog call 888.866.8862 www.rabb tair.com/smoke



#### Aston Martin Valkyris

Unveiled at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show and still a ways from production, the British sports carmaker's first true hypercar is being developed in cooperation with its track partner, Red Bull Racing. Both the street-legal and track versions will be produced in very limited numbers. The ultralight, monocoque-design two-seater will use a mid-engine 6.5-liter Cosworth engine expected to make "at least 1,000 horsepower."

#### Bugatti Chiron

While the Chiron picks up on key styling cues of the brand's previous exotic, the Veyron, it is anything but a "carryover." A closer look reveals significant updates made to ensure that Chiron can deliver a whopping 25 percent more power than the old Bugatti Grand Sport Vitesse, something that should help it regain a number of world records, including power, torque and top speed. Surprisingly, getting 1,500 horse power and 1,180 pound-feet of torque out of the Chiron's 8.0-liter quad-turbo W-16 engine was less of a challenge than keeping brakes and powertrain cooled at 260+ mph.

#### Chevrolet Corvette ZR1

A Chevy? Well, that's a matter of debate because the latest version of the seventh-generation. Vette retains its up-front engine placement. Nevertheless, it delivers what GM calls "unprecedented performance." Its supercharged 6.2-liter LTS V-8 churns out a





solid 755 hp and 715 pound-feet of torque, and it can clip 60 in barely two seconds, with a top speed of around 216 mph. What the automotive world is really watching for, however, is the long-awaited mid-engine Corvette caught by "spy" photographers while it was tested at places like Germany's Nurburgring.

#### Ferrari LaFerrari and FXX

Only this Italian automaker would name its first hypercar after itself. The LaFerrari was more than just fast and exotic. It introduced the world to the idea you could make a green (well, greener) hypercar using a Formula One-derived hybrid system that combines a 6.2-liter V-I2 and I20-kilowatt electric motor that recaptures energy during braking and coasting. Now comes the successor, the FXX-K Evo. Built in extremely limited numbers, this four wheeled arrow of a hypercar also borrows heavily from FI for both its aerodynamics and powertrain technology—the hybrid engine package rated at 1,036 hp.

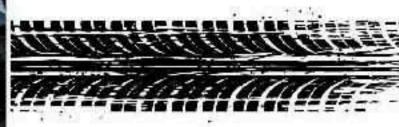
#### Ford GT

The successor to the original Ford GT40 was, like the '60s-era' hypercar, initially designed for the racetrack—dominating its class in the global endurance series for the last two years. Fittingly, only 250 will be built in the initial run, an upgraded version to follow with equal numbers. Some, however, might quibble about whether the GT deserves to be called a hypercar. It makes only 647 hp, and its twin-turbo 3.5-liter engine has but six cylinders. However, due to its light weight construction it boasts one of the highest power-to-weight ratios of any street-legal performance carever built.

#### Hennessey Venom F5

This American-born hypercar could soon not only capture the world speed record, but become the first production model to break 300 mph. No wonder it's named for the most powerful tornado on the Fujita scale. The limited-edition F5 uses a Hennessey-designed V-B that makes 1,600 horsepower. But power isn't everything. With its carbon-fiber body it weighs just 2,950 pounds and wind-tunnel testing has helped minimize drag while maximizing the down force needed to stay on the ground at such extreme speeds.





Mel area Pr

#### Koenigsegg Agera RS

Starting with the "One," this Swedish marque has rolled out a series of hyper-exotic machines that have challenged far more established ultra-performance brands like Ferrari, Lamborghini and McLaren. The Agera RS, in fact, claims a slightly higher top speed than the new Bugatti Chiron, at 278 mph, and there have been hints from the company that it could yet push to 300, challenging Hennessey's Venom F5. Oh, and it can reach 250 mph in a mere 33 seconds.

#### Lamborghini Huracán Performante

When it comes to outlandish designs, few can come close to matching what Lamborghini routinely rollsout. And even its most mundane models deliver inspiring levels of performance. But the Performante clearly pushes the envelope with a car that can stand on its own on both the drag strip and on a more conventional race circuit. It will turn a quarter mile in a mere 104 seconds and it has lapped the grueling Nurburgring Nordschleife in just six minutes 52.1 seconds, a production car record.

#### McLaren Pl and IUI

Claiming more FL victories than any other manufacturer, the British carmaker was one of the first to push into hypercar territory with the exotic and unusual FL. It followed with the PL earlier this decade and is now readying the \$1 million Senna, named for Formula One legend Ayrton Senna. (He spent six years under the McLaren flag, winning 35 races and taking three world championships.) With its distinctive gullwing doors and ultralight carbon fiber chassis and body, it will be powered by a 780 hp twin-turbo V-B.

#### Mercedes-AME Project Due

After a long wait, we've finally gotten our first official look at the German marque's first true hypercar. A major step beyond the earlier SLR and SLS supercars, the Project One's specs might seem like a typo: it uses a miniscule 1.6-liter turbocharged engine, but one that can spin at 11,000 RPMs. And it's paired with four electric motors that, all combined, thrust outover 1,000 horsepower with essentially no turbo lag. It even promises 25 miles in all-electric mode, as well as a 217 mph top speed.

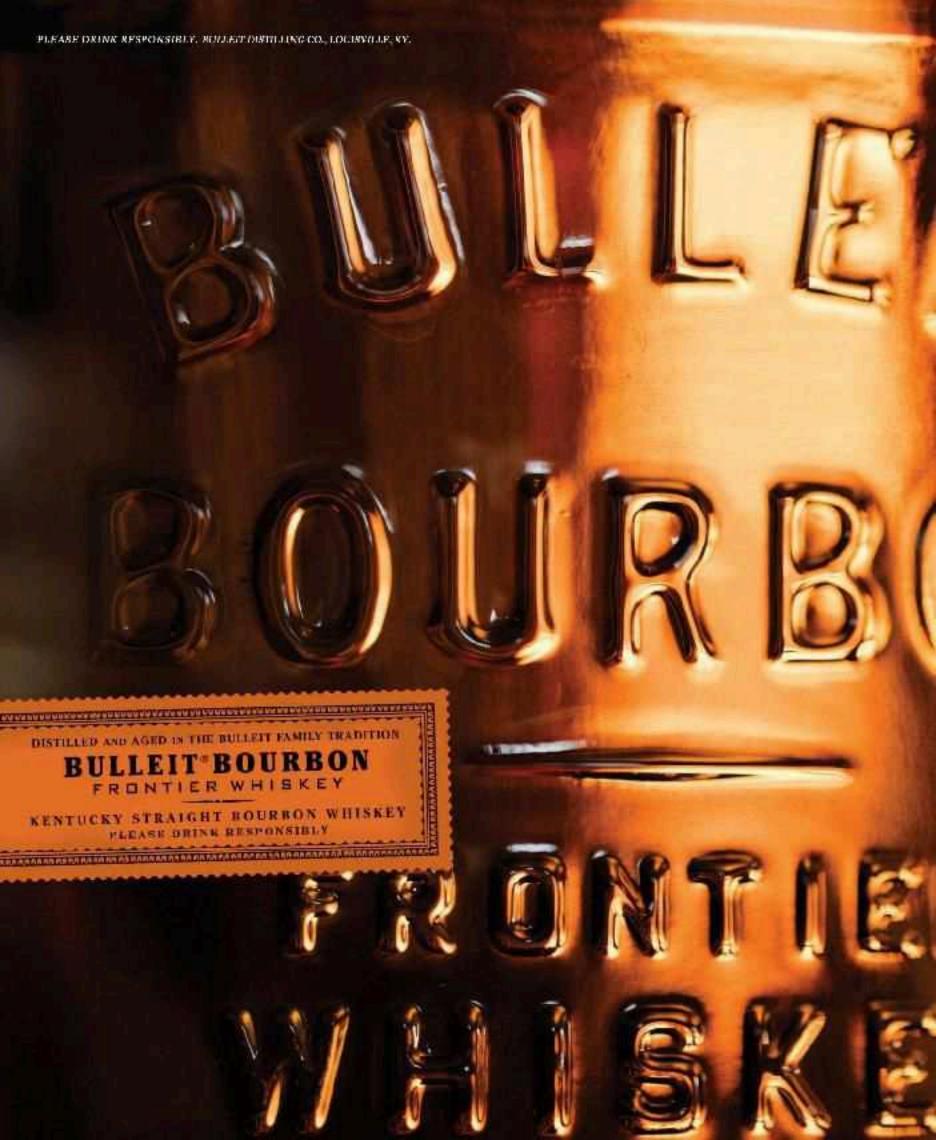
#### Porsche 918 Spyder and Mission E

The 918 Spyder was a breakthrough model for Porsche in a variety of ways, among other things marking the first time the German sports car company opted for a hybrid drivetrain, one using Formula One technology. The mid-engine plug-in could even drive 19 miles in all-electric mode. The automaker will next year launch its first all-electric model, the Mission E. And though it won't fall into the hypercar category it's expected to deliver performance in line with some of Porsche's fastest models.

#### Testa Roadster

We haven't gotten much from Tesla yet on the second-generation Roadster. It's focused, for now, on figuring out how to fix production problems with its new Model 3. But during an autumn 2017 sneak preview, Musk set hearts a Rutter by showing off a prototype that, he claimed, will make an awe-inspiring 10,000 pound-feet of torque, hit 60 in barely two seconds and top out somewhere in the 250 mph range. Want one of the first? Tesla is taking advance orders for a \$200,000 deposit. •

Poul A. Eisenstein writes frequently on cars for Croan Africtoria Do.







## LIGHT UP THE SCENE

You earned it.



Perfected over 152 years, yours to enjoy now.

Fig #LightUpYourSout PlasencioCigors.com



# SMAII GAMES, Corns 5150,000 most slot by Michael Kaplan - Illustration by Taylor Callery

guy texts to tell me that he has a 33 percent chance of winning a car in a casino. I consider it for a beat and write it off as wishful thinking. A similar message comes from Eddie Teams and I figure that he's come across a favorable situation and has high probability of parking a new auto in his driveway during the coming days.

Teams, in his forties, has won more than 30 cars from casinos across the United States. He is a canny advantage player who games casino promotions aimed at prolific gamblers and capitalizes on the miscalculations of suckerbets. A mathematical approach—based on cost versus opportunity of various propositions—has led him to win a house in Pahrump, Nevada, to take down raffle-card drawings as if by magic, to devise gambits for beating bookies even if he knows nothing about the sporting event. At first glance, Teams appears to be the luckiest guy in Nevada. In reality, he ranks among the hardest working.

Understandably, Teams gets inked when people talk about common games being unbeatable.

Walking through Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, formerly the Hilton, out of which Teams and his crew of advantage players have extracted many thousands of dollars, he simply states: "Every casino game in the world is beatable, and it can all be done without breaking any laws. There are biased roulette wheels. Side bets at every table game are beatable. I've memorized shuffles, recognized card-backs, sequenced aces, controlled dice."

And for anyone who thinks slot machines, video poker and electronic blackjack games rank as sucker bets, Teams has big news: They're not. In fact, they have long been his bread and butter. His millions of dollars in earnings at those gambling devices, often considered the province of people who are old, clueless or timid, underscore the point. Amazingly, while Teams knows the math of the wagers he makes, there are times when simply paying laser-sharp attention is enough to carry the day.

Eddie Teams has taken an astonishing amount of each from minor easing games must top gamblers ignore

Consider what went down at a casino in Arizona. "I won \$150,000 in two months," recalls Teams. "Whoever got in the most slot play, within a designated period of time, would be called first to pick from five large poster cards on a wall."

Their fronts, with varying amounts of money, faced the wall and were positioned out of players' sights, but the backs, of course, were visible. "One was \$50,000 and the others were \$10,000," Teams says. "You had to lose so much on the slots [in order to have enough play to participate] that winning \$10,000 was not very good. But if you hit \$50,000, it was a nice profit. The first drawing, I won \$10,000 and saw a guy win the \$50,000. I committed the back of the \$50,000 card to memory. I knew they'd use the same cards the next time and knew I'd be able to recognize it just like you recognize your cell phone," he says, referring to tiny, almost imperceptible scratches and imperfections. "Then I came back, played enough so that I would be first to pick, and hit it. I did that three times—before they brought in new cards with clean backs and I couldn't do it anymore."

At the Vegas Hard Rock, for a similar contest, after Teams won by the same means, casino management tried foiling him by making sure the card backs were 100 percent identical. "Then I saw a guy placing the cards on a board for players to pick," says Teams, who realized that the casino employee knew where the high-paying card was. "Thirty minutes before the contest, I found a penny slot machine that gave me a view of him setting things up. I played the machine and watched this guy's eyes. He kept looking at the winning card. Whether he wanted to or not, he couldn't help himself. I knew with nearly 100 percent certainty where the big-money card had been placed and won again."

There's also a way to buy the world's fanciest wristwatches without paying anything close to the going price, so long as you move in the same circles that Teams does. He wears a handsome Audemars Piguet. "It's a \$40,000 watch," he says with no hesitation. "But I paid \$17,000. You can say that I'm a bit of a pawn broker. I have \$1 million worth of watches."

Like most good things that have happened to Teams, this side career began in a casino. Back in 2003, he was playing every day at Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, but he wasn't gambling it up at black jack or Texas hold em. Teams found his edge on a video poker machine called Pick'em Poker. "It was boring," he



says. "So boring that I sometimes had to play a higher risk machine just to relieve the tedium."

The results, though, were anything but boring. Played correctly, Pickiem Poker was close to a break-even machine. Mohegan Sun, in an effort to induce play from seeming suckers, gave enough comp dollars for machine-play that Teams earned some \$300 an hour. But it wasn't cash. What Teams made were credits that could be spent at Mohegan's retail outlets. "I worked out a private deal with the owner of astore in the casino," he says. "He sold me gold coirs, which I went on to sell. They came with a nice loophole," A loophole he preferred to not get into.

Leading me to the Westgate steakhouse, Teams continues: "I had more coin-in and more theoretical loss than anyone in the casino," he says, emphasizing the word theoretical and making it clear that he did anything but lose. "I spent so much time in the high-limit room that degenerate gam blers there started talking to me. Eventually some of them asked to borrow money. They were always broke and gave me their watches for collateral. Some guys sold me their comp dollars and that was fine as well."

The watch he's currently sporting?" I did the deal for this one in Vegas. I was at the Caesars Palace sports book. Aguy called me and said he needed money. I told him to meet me at Caesars and to bring the watch. Games were going off and I didn't want to miss them."

itting down at a table in the steakhouse (the meal is comped, of course), Teams is sipping a glass of single-malt Scotch and waiting for one of his partners to join us. He explains that things started for him on a car lot in Hawaii. His father was in the military; Teams was IB and landed a job working for an auto dealer in Oahu. At the time, hed id not know how to drive astick and turned out to be terrible at selling cars. The boss offered Teams two options; Get fired or relocate to a sister dealership where a manager was particularly adept at training rookie salesmen.

Teams chose the latter. The trainer was named Eddie Suzui. "It was intense," recalls Teams. "He went into mirror greeting techniques, showed me how to read people's lips and eyes, taught me strategies for recognizing when people are lying or willing to accept a price. I learned a lot and became very good. I wound up in Vegas and thought I would get a job selling cars there while I worked on card counting—something that I had been interested in ever since I saw the movie Rain Man in 1988. One day I was out on the lot, the temperature hit 115 degrees, I felt miserable. I had already gotten shead by \$20,000 playing double-deck [blackjack games] and spreading from \$25 to \$200. I quit my job and began playing full time."

Adding to his advantage-playing repertoire, he got into shuffle tracking and hole-carding. For the former, Teams taught himself to memorize slugs of cards by making up stories with each card representing a different character in the story. Marilyn Monroe, for example, was the Queen of diamonds. For the latter, he'd spot dealers' hole cards and send info to a partner who would do the betting. To see the cards, though, Teams explains, "I'd get down really low in my seat. I began wearing kneepads under my pants and that helped take care of the pain."

After getting backed off for card-counting at a low-stakes blackjack game in an off-strip casino—"I split tos four times, won all the hands and the pit-boss told me I couldn't play blackjack anymore because he was too busy to watch me"—Teams saw that video poker expert Bob Dancer was holding classes on the game in the casino. Dancer is a well-regarded advantage player and he gave legitimately good advice, but the casino knew that few people would follow his wisdom and, empowered by the class, they'd feel emboldened to risk money. Teams turned out to be one of the few who actually listened. More importantly, he was drawn by Dancer's coupons for double-payments on royal flushes.

All you had to do was sit through the entire class and, if you

"Every casing game in the world is beatable, and it can all be done without breaking any laws."

---- EEDIE TEAMS

played perfectly, the coupons gave you a 2.7 percent advantage. (For comparison's sake, card-counting pays off at 1 to 2 percent and gets you kicked out of casinos a lot quicker.) Dancer put on two classes perday, Teams religiously attended both of them and exploited the coupons. Dancer finally took him aside and warned him to take it easy on doubling up or else the casino would back him off from video poker. He listened, found other opportunities and came to recognize that money was not made only from hitting straights and flushes on the screen. You could also get rich by playing the right machines and capitalizing on bonuses, cashback offers, free-play coupons and various drawings designed to attract losing players.

As Teams unspools his story, a playing partner by the name of Dave Miller, in his thirties and a marathon-racing fanatic, joins us at the dinner table. We put in our food orders and he compels Teams to tell me about a recent play.

It was at Resorts World Casino in Queens, a gambling den that offers only machines and no table games. The casino had an offer forgamblers who played enough of the casino is electronic games in a single day, entitling them to receive \$8,000 in free play divided over the next three months. The problem was that you could put in for the payments only once every three months. On the upside, players were able to satisfy the play requirement at an expected loss of around \$500, and the coupons were redeem able at kiosks inside the casino, as opposed to being mailed to a local address.

Knowing the particulars, Teams realized that he needed as many players cards as possible. "All we needed were cards and pin numbers," he explains. "My girlfriend is from Laos, and she seemed to know every Laoation grandmother in New York. We rented a van, brought them to the casino, paid them \$300 each for getting players cards, then played on the cards and cashed in for the free play."

One challenge was getting the coupons at the kiosks. Casinos have cameras everywhere and management does not take kindly to people who play under multiple cards to seriously monetize

## BA AROMA DE CUBA





A taste from another time



the promotion. Teams did a literal headcount and noticed that one in four men at Resorts World wore Yankees hats. So everybody on the crew became instantly indistinguishable by wearing a home-team cap. Miller took it a step further. "I would bring in two cards at a time and keep coming back with different looks," he says. "I'd wear a hoodie. Then I'd return with a baseball hat. Then there'd be a tee shirt or a windbreaker or a suit."

Things got busy enough that Teams felt the need to recruit non-professional gamblers for obtaining the coupons. At least one of them, who had a day job as an engineer, found it hard to believe

"Casinus and lawyers can say a game is completely unbeatable, but, when you think about it, that is crazy logic."—woo towns

that he could be made so easily. "This guy went in and just stood there with 50 cards, cashing one after the other into the kiosk," Miller recounts with a rueful tone. "They caught him. He got taken into a back room, was threatened with arrest and got read the trespass act. He came to my hotel room and was devastated."

Though annoyed at the time, Teams shrugs it off now: "He's got a regular job and is not used to that stuff. I've been in that situation so many times that I don't care. Still, 26 of our accounts got frozen and that was the end of it. It lasted two-and-a-half months. If the engineer hadn't gotten us shut down, we could have made more than \$800,000."

When asked how much he made, Teams smiles tightly and replies: "I don't recall."

he waiter sets down prime beef and the usual steakhouse sides. As we dig into dinner, Millere xplains that all casino personnel are not as rough as the people at Resorts World. Others, in fact, are surprisingly good sports. He remembers a particularly juicy promotion at the Plaza Hotel & Casino in downtown Vegas. The deal was that anytime you hit a payoff for \$1,200 or more, which is taxed at 28 percent, the casino would provide a 30 percent bonus.

Ridiculously profitable for sharp players, it was scheduled to go for 24 hours, from midnight to midnight. "We were 18 hours in when a casually dressed guy, in his thirties, with a British accent, walked up and started asking questions," remembers Miller. "He asked how we got there, how we heard about the promotion, how we were doing with it. Then he leaned into me and said, "I really screwed up with this promotion, didn't 1?" I realized that he's the owner of the casino!

"My heart started racing. I said, "To be honest, this is pretty good for players." Then he softly asked, "How bad will this be for me? I'll keep the promotion going until midnight, as promised, but just tell me what the damage will be." I told him that it will

probably be around \$200,000 per machine. He absorbed the news and said, "Well, you have to lose sometimes." Then he gave us his business card and kept it going until midnight. In retrospect, it was hilarious."

They get on a roll and Teams talks about the time he got locked inside a casino restaurant with a lucrative blackjack machine. He and his crew could have stayed there all night if not for a homeless guy inadvertently locked in with them who kept kicking at the door trying toget out.

Miller talks about a bingo game he used to burn off a load of freeplay points for a windfall of \$300,000 and a progressive video pokermachine at the Palms that had to pay off at \$25,000. "It got up to \$24,000," says Miller. "I had to play it for hours longer, but leaving at that point would have been a mathematical datastrophe."

Rounding things out, they are deep into sports betting. Here's an easy tip from Teams: If an NFL underdog is ahead by a lot at the half, against a public outfit like the Patriots or Cowboys, make a halftime bet on the dog to cover the spread. Teams has been applying advantage-playing strategies to the trading of futures and cryptocurrencies. He's been doing well with it and hopes to find outside investors. One stock play he missed, though, unspooled at a major, publicly traded casino back in 2008, before he was seriously trading, when shares of its parent company were below \$2. The struggling casino company, desperate to generate immediate revenue, announced that players would receive four-times bonus points, which could be turned into free play. It was so valuable that when a gambler was told he would have to move his car, he asked that they tow it, lest he step away from the machine and lose valuable time in front of it.

The promotion was supposed to go for a day and got extended to last a week. It generated casino cash flow that succeeded in propping up the stock. While Teams, Miller and others experienced serious windfalls—"I made over \$1 million that year," says Teams—they missed out on the biggest advantage play of all by failing to listen to casino personnel that they viewed as shills.

Remembers Miller: "A man in a suit walked up to us and said, "I know what you guys are doing. We're fine with it. But the best thing you can do for your future is togo out and put some of your money into this casino's stock. My mentality at the time was to keep playing and not worry about anything else. People thought he was biased and I didn't know if it was a huge opportunity or not." One woman, however, did: "She put \$100,000 into the stock and it went from a dollar to \$18. That was very good for her."

As for the future, Miller has a plan: "Being unbeatable at sports, Finding opportunities with machines, making endless money."

Maybe taking in the bigger picture a bit, Teams steps back a notch and says, "Casinos and lawyers can say agame is completely unbeatable, but, when you think about it, that is crazy logic. It may be incredibly complicated, but there will inevitably be a way to beat it."

Then, with dinner completed and plates being cleared, Teams scrutinizes the tab and realizes that his complished quite exhausted. He flags the waiter and orders an entire cheesecake togo. Clearly, leaving money on the table resides outside his frame of reference. •

Michael Kaplan is a Crown Aprorawapa contributing editor.



MILAGRO MEANS MIRACLE

## Buy tickets before they disappear!

## WhiskyFest

The Leading Whisky Festival in North America.

#### WASHINGTON, DC

April 17, 2018

#### SAN FRANCISCO

November 2, 2018

**NEW YORK** 

December 4, 2018



Buy
VIP Tickets
and Enjoy an
Extra Hour
of Tasting!

#### Some of the outstanding whiskies you can taste:

1000 Stories A. Smith Bowman Aberlour Alexander Murray & Co. Amador Ardheg Arran Baker's The Balvenie Barton 1792 Basil Hayden The BenRiach Bib & Tucker Blade and Bow Blanton's Blood Oath Booker's Bewmore Brixton Mash Destrover Bruichladeich

Buffalo Trace

Bullcit

Bushmils

Casa Noble Compass Box Connemara Cooper & Thief Crown Royal David Nicholson Reserve Dewar's Dickel Douglas Laing Dove Tale Rum Driftless Glen Distillery Elijah Craig Four Roses Glen Grant The GlenDronach Clenfiddich Glenglassaugh Glengoyne The Glenlivet Glenmurangie The Glenrothes Gooderham & Worts Green Spoc

Hakushu Henry McKenna Hibiki High West Highland Park Hillrock Estate Hudson I.W. Harper J.P. Wiser Jack Daniel's Jameson Jim Beam John & Allisa's John Drew Rye Johnnie Walker Kayalan Kilheggan. Knappogue Castle Knob Creek Lagavulin Laphrosig Larceny Limestone Branch Distillery Lot 40 Lax Row Distillers The Macalan Maker's Mark Masterson's Michter's Midleton Barry Crockett Nikka Nooku Oban Okl Fitzgerakl Old Forester Old Pultency Old Rip Ven Winkle Parker's Heritage Collection Pike Creek

Pikesville Rye The Pogues Powers John's Lane The Quiet Man Rebel Yell Redbreast Redemption Whiskies Russell's Reserve Sezerac The Sexton Slane Speyburn Stillhouse Swlen Stranglan's Teeling Whiskey

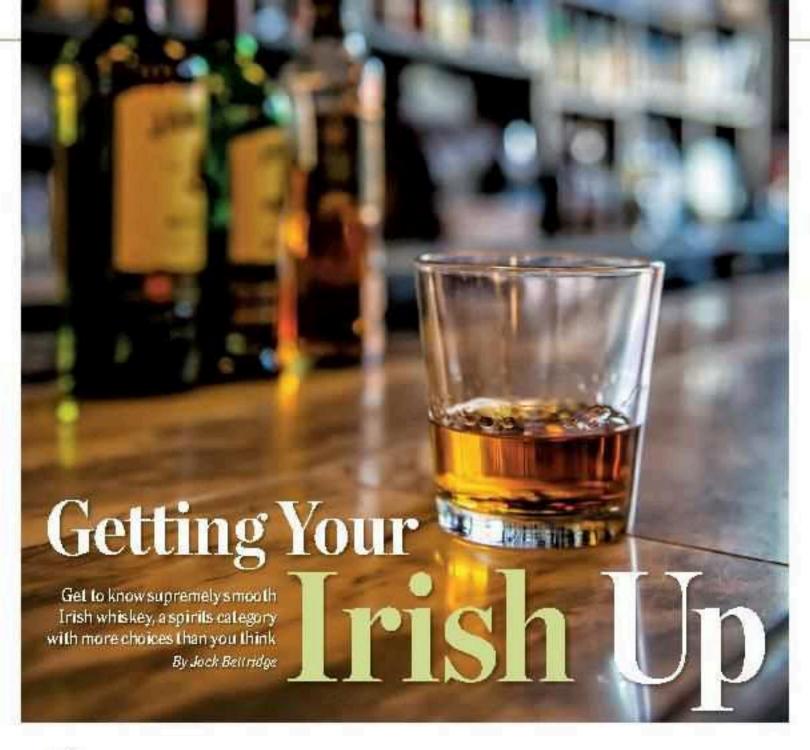
The Temple Bar Tincup Toki Tullibardine Tyrconne.1 Wayne Grerzky Whisley West Cork Distillers Westland Wheatley Vodka WhistlePig Wild Turkey Woodford Reserve Yamazaki Yellow Spot

Not all winskies awaic ble brutheides.

- Hundreds of whiskies to sample
- Enjoy a gourmet buffet all evening
- Attend FREE tasting seminars by whisky experts
- Meet the distillers and master blenders
- Special Bonus: Receive a one-year subscription to Whisky Advocate magazine\*

\* Current subscriptions will be extended.





dvice to whiskey snobs: 1f it's St. Patrick's Day and you're in a bar (and what are the chances of that?) don't turn down an Irish whiskey on the premise there isn't much choice. First of all, you'd be missing out on a rapidly expanding category that recalls a time when the island nation could claim to make the world's preeminent whiskey. Second, it could get you cold-cocked. Better just to go with the Row and enjoy one of the many excellent drams that are the gift of the rebirth of Irish whiskey.

If you think of Irish as a supremely smooth blend meant to bolster a mug of coffee, you're only partially right. The Emerald Island has a spirits heritage that stretches back a millennium and a half (depending on whom you ask) and includes quite a flavor panorama, with many whiskeys better suited to sipping neat or with a rock than poured into coffee. The whims of history have not always been kind to the whiskey culture in Ireland, and there are a

number of myths about the spirit: that Irish whiskey is all tripledistilled, unpeated and blended. Let us set the record straight.

Whiskey has been made in Ireland for at least 400 years, and perhaps more than 1,000. Based on a written record from 1495, the Scots claim that their whiskly predates Irish, but reason suggests that may not be the case. Distillation equipment (for perfume) could be found in Ireland as early as 600 A.D., back when a mere 200 million people walked the Earth, so it tries the imagination to think that the Irish neglected to make whiskey with it for nine centuries. By the end of the 18th century a couple thous and stills existed in Ireland. Many were tiny, cottage affairs.

Unlike much of today's Irish whiskey, back in those days the spirit was quite smoky, and made with plenty of peat, both todry barley or fuel the stills, as peat was so widely available on an island known for its bogs. When Dublin became the distilling capital of the LBth century, coal edged out peat as a fuel source, taking away some of the smoky qualities of many Irish whiskies.

A 1785 tax on barley can be credited with giving Irish whis key some of its distinctive, modern-day flavor. The tariff was more onerous on malted barley than unmalted, so distillers in search of a tax deduction mixed in a portion of unsprouted barley with their usual malt. The serendipity of the dodge was that the addition of green barley gave the whis key a spicier, fruitier taste, a flavor now so closely associated with whiskey from Ireland. Irish whiskey made solely from malted barley virtually disappeared.

Distilling in Ireland was originally done exclusively in pot stills, so the blended whiskey that Ireland is now associated with had yet to exist. The use of a more efficient (and profitable) column still to make some of the whiskey in a vatting is what constitutes

enough, the Second World War severely out grain supplies.

The industry's reaction to the slowdown was to consolidate, and by 1966 all whiskey makers in the Republic of Ireland, including such venerable brands as Jameson, Powers, Midleton and Paddy, had merged into Irish Distillers Ltd. By 1975 Dublin ceased to make whiskey, and all distillation in the country moved to the new Midleton plant on the south end of the island. The Old Bushmills distillery in Northern Ireland was swept up into the group in 1970. Irish Distillers was sold to France's Pernod Ricard in 1988. Bushmills has since been sold and resold and belongs to José Cuervo. The Paddy brand now belongs to America's Sazerac.

Happily, the story improves from there. John Teeling, a seventh-generation distiller, was already converting a Schnapps distillery in County Louth, near Northern Ireland, to make whiskey and by 1987 had founded Cooley Distillery. He immediately





blending Aeneas Coffey, an Irishman himself, patented this continuous method of distilling in 1830, but the island did not fully embrace columnstill grain whiskey until the 20th century.

Irish whiskey fell into slow decline 100 years ago. The island's separatist movement had been clashing with Great Britain for a half century before Ireland was granted independence in 1921. A British trade embargo, which had already been instituted in 1919,

meant that Irish distillers (with the exception of Northern Ireland producers, like Bushmills) could no longer distribute to the United Kingdom and its considerable territories worldwide. The trouble was whipsawed by the introduction of Prohibition in the United States, a lively market with no shortage of Irish immigrants. Canada, a convenient neighbor, flooded the U.S. with well-made contraband that would supersede Irish on the American palate. Acap onex ports by Ireland's new government meant that when Prohibition ended in 1933, Ireland was ill prepared to recapture the American market. If those weren't problems



began reviving old brands and styles, which now include single malt, single grain, blended whiskey and the peated Connemara.

The rebounding interest in whiskey in general and the resurgence of Irish whiskey (especially Jameson) has made the United States Ireland's most important global market, accounting for 40 percent of sales. New brands are swelling the market and at least LB new distilleries have opened in the past five years, with a dozen more

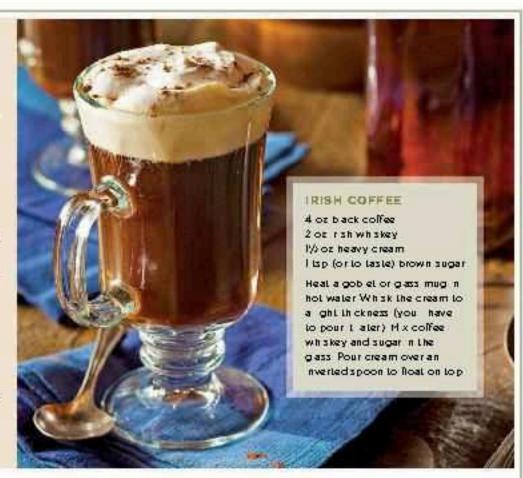
planned. Tullamore D.E.W. recently returned to its former hometown with a new distillery. The once-shuttered Kilbeggan Distillery in County Westmeath was restored years ago and distillation has restarted. (It's also a popular spot for tours.) In 2015, the sons of John Teeling, Jack and Stephen, returned distilling to Ireland's capital of Dublin with their own facility on Newmarket, in the heart of Dublin's old whiskey-making district.

With the big name distillers continuing to up their game with exciting new releases, it's a good time to get your Irish up with some of these fine whiskeys.

### Coffee's Greatest COCKTAIL

We can safely assume that self-styled mixalogists have been adding whiskey to their coffee ever since the two were available in one place, but the foremost java cocktail was not codified until the age of commercial transatlantic flight. The story goes that in 1943, bad weather forced a Pan Am flying boat on its way to New York back to lieland and the passengers were given Irish whiskey, coffee and a topping of cream to keep them warm.

It wasn't long before the drink flew international. The mellow, caramel of Irish whiskey softens the acidic coffee. The sugar in the mix makes the cream buoyant, and the combination comes together as the dark lower layer is drunk through the light floater. The result is one of our favorite drinks, a simple cocktail that pairs oh-so-well with a bracing cigar.



Bushmills 16-Year-Old Single Malt (80 proof, \$80) This Northern Ireland distillery makes nothing but single malt in pot stills (column-stilled grain whiskey is procured elsewhere for its blends). The 16-year-old single malt is aged in Sherry and Bourbon casks before being joined in Port wood for a number of months. The result is a beguiling mix, delicate and bold with cherry, caramel, toffee, honey and spice.

Connemara Peated Single Malt Whiskey (40 proof, \$55) Currently unique among Irish whiskeys for its smoky, peat Bavor, Connemara still shows a range of fruit, including pear, as well as toast and licorice. Twice pot-distilled, instead of the three times common to Ireland, it has a full body and maltiness.

Jameson Blender's Dog (86 proof, \$70) The second in the Whiskey Makers Series highlights the important art of blending, especially considering the extensive stock held in the Midleton distillery that makes Jameson. Named for a tool used to draw samples, it melds different ages and styles to come up with a nuanced flavor spectrum that includes orange, lime, cocoa and banana.

Kilbeggan Single Grain (86 proof, \$30) Single grain refers to a whiskey made in a column still at a single location (in this case, Cooley Distillery). With a recipe that is almost exclusively corn (its only 6 percent barley), this Kilbeggan would normally be part of a blend. It stands on its own, however, with the expected vanilla and honey, plus some understated herbs and spice.

Redbreast Aged 15 Years Single Pot Still (92 proof, \$80) An example of the style of mixing malted and unmalted barley in one whiskey. Not chill-filtered, it delivers a range of notes, including berries, peaches, honey, caramel and licorice.

Sexton Single Malt (80 proof, \$30) A new Northern Ireland whiskey, aged on the grounds of Old Bushmills distillery, Sex ton has the heady bread-dough aroma of its pot-still origin and the fruity Ravors of its Sherry cask aging. A cheese note touches on the upper palate.

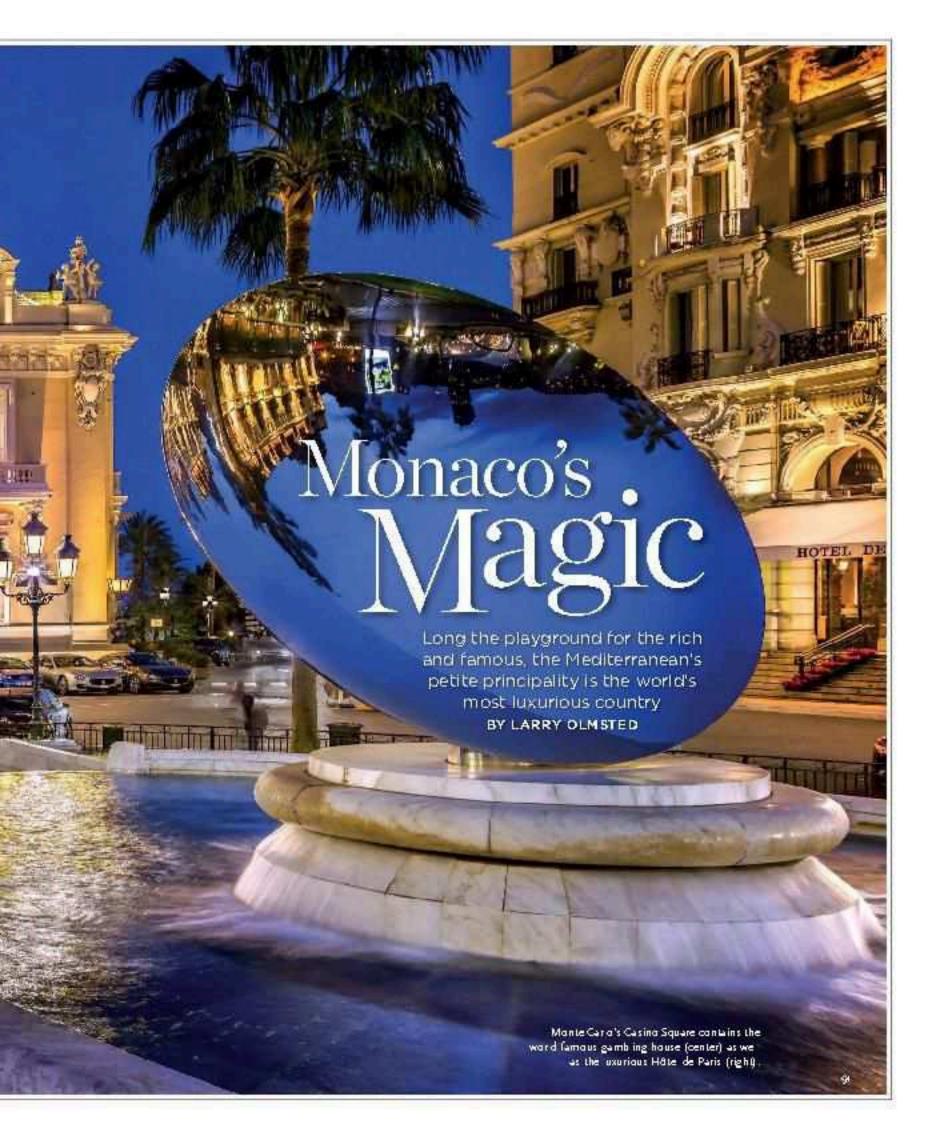
Slame (80 proof, \$30) Triple-casked, this new brand is aged in a combination of virgin, former Sherry casks and American whiskey barrels, supplied by Brown-Forman, a partner in the venture. All the touchstones of American whiskey—caramel, toffee and vanilla—are here, supplemented with softspice and lively fruit.

Teeling Single Malt (92 proof, \$55) The maturation of this malt involves five cask types, including Sherry, Port and Madeira. The whiskey is not chill-filtered nor colored. It starts out perfumed and quickly moves into meaty fruit with raisins and vanilla and a leathery spice. (We sampled whiskey made at Cooley distillery before the new Dublin facility opened.)

Tullamore D.E.W. Cider Cask Finish (80 proof, \$40) Formerly only available in Ireland, the cider-cask-finish D.E.W. now comes to America, but only seasonally. A few months in an apple-cider cask produces the expected apple Rayor in spades. But also there is caramel, toast, cinnamon and molasses.

The Tyrconnell Single Malt 15 Year Madeira Cask Finish (92 proof, \$100) Another Cooley Distillery product that revived an old brand, this recently released, limited-edition whiskey is distilled twice and finished in Former Madeira wine casks after a 15-year maturation in Bourbon barrels. The first flush is buttery with the sweetness of honey, before giving way to notes of orange marmalade and tingling spices. A long finish. •





T'S A PLACE where the locals' idea of Uber is a helicopter transfer from the airport, where you can't walk a block without seeing a McLaren or Lamborghini, where you can clothes shop in the company of royalty, dine next to billionaires and bet in the world's most glamorous casino. Champagne flows like water, and the water itself floats theswankiest private yachts. And it's all packed in a space smaller than New York's Central Park.

The Principality of Monaco is not the world's smallest country (that's Vatican City), but it is the richest. Its three-quarter-mile area boasts the highest per capita GDP (\$187,000) and the largest percentage of millionaires (29.2). A long list of royalty, movie stars, professional athletes and musicians swell the ranks of its 38,400 population, enjoying the tax-free haven with a gorgeous setting on the Mediterranean. While residents include Ringo Starr, tennisstar Novak Djokovic







Gambling and dining contribute to Monaco's charm. Above: the cigar friendly gutdoor gaming area at Casino de Monte Carlo. Top: A ain. Ducasse's Le Louis XV restaurant (left) and the casino interior (right)...

and numerous Formula One drivers, the country also draws its share of celebrity visitors, from Leonardo DiCaprio to Jay Z—especially those who attend the nearby Cannes Film Festival. The top two Michelin-star holders, Alain Ducasse and Joël Robuchon, both operate multiple world-class restaurants here.

That the tiny nation enjoys a larger-than-life reputation is no accident. Monaco leverages a calendar flush with ultrahighprofile sporting and cultural events and basks in a lantasy image created by the real-life lairy-tale wedding of American movie star Grace Kelly to Prince Rainier and its deep association with lictional spy James Bond. The inspiration for Ian Fleming's debut 007 novel, Casino Royale, Monaco's Casino de Monte-Carlo would become a set in multiple Bond films. Roger Moore, who played 007 more than anyone else, called Monaco home, as does singer Shirley Bassey, the only one to record two different Bond theme songs, Goldfinger and Diamonds Are Forever.

But Monaco's glamor is relatively recent. For much of its early history, it was one of Europe's poorest countries. Previously a colony of Genoa and later Aragon, it was purchased by the Grimaldi family in 1419. Between 1848 and 1861 Monaco lost 96 percent of its territory—the most fertile parts—to France, much of it ceded by its own citizens. It's a decision their descendants have likely regretted, given that today the Monegasque pay not axes and enjoy high-quality free education and health care. But at the time, Monaco was desperate for economic reinvention, and in 1855, it legalized gam bling. Nevertheless, the first few casino attempts failed because of inaccessibility.

In 1863 the royal family created a holding company, Société des Bains de Mer (SBM), to run things. The Société built the belle époque Monte Carlo structure and handed operations over to François Blanc, manager of a successful German casino. To deliver gamblers, Blanc quickly expanded steamship routes from Nice and then built a railroad and funicular connecting the casino with the train platform. Most famously, heeliminated the doublezero from the roulette wheel, lowering the house edge. So successful was Blanc that he became known as "the Magician of Monaco." By 1869 the casino was doing so well that the principality no longer needed to tax its citizens. SBM now operates multiple casinos, hotels, restaurants and nightclubs here.

This pattern of self-reliance helped the country overcome its fundamental geographic problem—with no place to expandleast, west or north, it instead turned to the sea, and through dredging and reclamation, expanded its footprint by 25 percent. Other venues are linked to Monaco in name only. The mountaintop Monte-Carlo Golf Club and the tennis stadium at the Monte-Carlo Country Club are actually in France. Yet Monaco proper still boasts one of the highest percentages of greenspace of any European city. The environmentally obsessed reigning monarch, H.S.H. Prince Albert 11, requires all new buildings to preserve a minimum of 30 percent of their square footage as open space. It is but one kilometer from the inland French border to the Mediterranean, with no bad neighborhoods, no crime to speak of. "We can talk about Monaco as a country, as a city or as a village," says Claudia Batthyany, an executive at the Fairmont Hotel.

"People get confused between Monte Carlo and Monaco," explains Fatoumata Froissart Diallo, who runs Fair & Fairy, a



Guests of Le Vistamar restaurant at the Hotel Hermitage enjoy ocal Mediterranean seafood and views of a harbor with some the world's swankiest yachts.

high-end private guide and travel service. "There are six districts within the principality, and Monte Carlo is just one, but it's the most famous, so everyone just calls the whole place that." The gentle slope that is Monte Carlo contains the Casino de Monte-Carlo as well as the city's top four luxury hotels. The famous casino, the Hôtel de Paris, the Opera House, and the Café de Paris, with its own attached smaller casino, form the main square, while other fine hotels, the Metropole, Fairmont and Hermitage, fan out around it. Looking down towards the marina and Mediterranean is the Old Town, home to the palace, as well as the nation's

#### "There are six districts, and because Monte Carlo is the most famous, everyone calls the whole place that."

acclaimed oceanography museum/institute. The U-shaped port is its own neighborhood. Stretching along the waterfront are resortstyle hotels and the city's main beach. A small residential area sits above Monte Carlo.

But tiny Monaco packs a big punch. The most powerful tourism draw is the region's slate of high-profile annual events. Its superior lodging and dining options serve many celebrities at the nearby Cannes Film Festival. Monaco's marina hosts Europe's largest in-water boat show (50,000 visitors, 600 boats), the Cannes Yachting Festival. Held on clay, the Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters is one of the nine Super Tournaments of tennis.

The Monaco Formula One Grand Prix is arguably the world's Mo. I race and certainly the most important event in its class. With the Indianapolis 500 and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, it comprises the Triple Crown of Motorsports. Held since 1929, it is the only Ft raced entirely on public streets. Except for a single small patch of grass, every vantage point requires a ticket or real estate with a view. Yachts on the waterside of the racetrack, Hôtel de Paris rooms overlooking the casino square and Fairmont Hotel rooms with balconies above the iconic hairpin are coveted spots.

The Grand Prix, which takes place in May, is wrapped in a bow for those who can afford to attend. Every hotel in town sells it as a four-night package. The hospitality industry makes about 15 percent of its annual revenue in these 96 hours, with food and drink at substantial premiums and the better hotels commanding \$2,500 nightly. Racing fan George Lucas lays out \$86,000 each year for one of four corner suites at the Fairmont, with views of both the hairpin turn and the equally famous tunnel. "The noise of the cars becomes like music," says Batthyany. The race is preceded a week earlier by either the Historical Ft race, with vintage cars, or the E-Prix, with open-cock pit electric cars.

"If you ever get the chance, go during Princess Stephanie's circus event in January," advises broadcaster and journalist Michael Patrick Shiels, who hosts a syndicated drive-time morning radio show that occasionally visits Monaco. "Concession stands sell crepes and Champagne instead of peanuts and beer, and it's the fanciest circus you'll ever see." The Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival is the Cannes Film Festival of the circus world. Hundreds of acts apply and the two best performances are

awarded the Gold and Silver Clown. It features animal acts, comedic performances and choreographed acrobatic feats. Prince Albert heads the judging panel while his sister, Princess Stephanie, opens the festivities.

Other one-of-a-kind Monaco annual events include an opera fest, of f-road rally race, arts festival, philharmonic, international music festival, dance forum and one of the world's most prestigious fireworks competitions. The gala Rose Ball, held every March, is the Principality's major charity event, benefitting the Princess Grace Foundation. The Ball requires fancy dress, but that is hardly unusual in fashion-centric Monaco.

"What I love about Monaco is that you can be anyone you want there," says Shiels, who has done his broadcasts in white dinner jacket and bow tie. "It's one of the only places you can just wear a tux to dinner without a reason and feel normal, but you don't have to... There are always celebrities in town, and where

With no place to grew in and, tiny
Monaco enthroces to waterside. The
Fairmon ( Hotel is in the foreground)

Bround

B

else might 1 stand shoulder to shoulder with a billionaire or movie star? Not in Vegas that's for sure. But despite the glamour, it's very open and accessible, because it's so small and secure. You might well see Shirley Bassey or Princess Caroline. Prince Albert has been known to get bored with the food at his palace and walk across the street and sit at the bar at this little family-owned Italian restaurant in the Old Town—his neighborhood joint 1 guess." Diallo adds that she has seen Princess Caroline and her daughter shopping in Zara of all places. And during a recent visit to the city Prince Albert drove past—in one of Monaco's humbler sedans.

The casino is equally popular with gamblers and gawkers, though the latter don't get beyond the first room. There's a 10 euro entry fee to get inside the main casino (unless you have dining reservations). Heavily gilded—more palace than casino—it sports a domed rotunda, masters' paintings and huge, or nate

chandeliers, each containing over 300 pounds of Bohemian crystal and covered in gold leaf. Two features you are unlikely to ever see in another casino are a large grand clock and natural lighting, with windows and skylights. Tiny by Vegas standards, it has a handful of gaming tables, a few slot machines, and a large bar, where during the day tourists live out their James Bond fantasy moments by ordering pricey Martinis (shaken not stirred). The bar is popular even before gambling starts, as the doors open at 9:30 A.M. for sights eeing. Wagering—along with a dress code banning jeans, sneakers and requiring jackets for men—commences at 2 P.M.

The real scene is in the smaller "private" back rooms, which require another to euro cover, and are more lavish and atmospheric. (Admittance to both areas is waived for guests of SBM lodgings: Hôtel de Paris, Hermitage, Monte-Carlo Beach, Monte-Carlo Bay and assorted rental villas.) The semiprivate rooms spill

into one another, and while not large, the entire complex is bigger than it looks, with a couple of restaurants and bars, multiple gaming areas, and one of the most prestigious opera houses in Europe at one end. Whereas the big action is in the semiprivate back area, with chips (actually rectangular plaques) running up to one million euros, table minimums are surprisingly low. They start at just five, 10 or 25 euros depending on the game, with the most popular being roulette, baccarat and blackjack (there are no craps). All the gaming tables are by law made here in Monaco, and beautifully appointed, the wood all polished and the felt immaculate. Arm rests are leather and cupholders brass. Nothing is remotely worn or tired. When smoking was banned indoors, the casino added a back-patiogaming area that is pleasantly alfresco, on a large marble terrace overlooking the Mediterranean. It has about a dozen tables and cigars for sale.

The three other casinos in the country are more for convenience than grandeur.

Asmall one featuring mainly slots is in the back of the Café de Paris. The Monte-Carlo Bay Hotel and Fairmont each contain their own, the latter being "American style" with games like craps and three-card poker.

"To me Monte Carlo is a tiny jewel box," says Anne Scully, president of McCabe World Travel in Virginia. Having explored every inch over the years, she suggested some of her top sites: "My favorite area is Princess Grace's Rose Garden, and another favorite is the Japanese Garden. The Royal Castle has tours of the Prince's State Apartments and don't miss the changing of the guards, always at LL:55 A.M. sharp. Afterwards, there are some wonderful restaurants hidden in the alleys close to the castle. Le Montgolfière Henri-Geraci is agreat choice. Very close to Monte-Carlo in Saint Jean Cap-Ferrat is Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a walk back in time to how the great wealth of the world lived. The

## AND LIFE WILL TREAT YOU ROYALLY.











JOËL ROBUCHON AT THE METROPOLE

LOUIS XV AT HOTEL DE PARIS

CIGARS AT HOTEL HERMITAGE

#### Living Like a Prince

#### CIGAR FRIENDLY

Cigars are widely popular in Monaco, and all the major hotels, including Saphir at the Fairmont, Crystal Bar in the Hermitage and the Metropole Bar have either rooftop or outdoor bars and patios. The lobby bar at Le Meridien overlooks the Mediterranean and offers cigars paired with smoked cocktails. The Casino de Monte-Carlo has a cigar-friendly gaming patio.

#### DINING BY CHEF

A lain Ducasse Second in Michelin stars amassed, Ducasse runs three restaurants here. His three-star outpost, Le Louis XV, is where James Bond would eat. It has daily tasting menu, à la carte items and a dress code. Ducasse also operates the hotel's only slightly more casual Le Grill restaurant, and the Trattoria at the Monaco Sporting Club.

Joël Robuchon The world leader in Michelin stars awarded operates all the dining venues in the Metropole Hotel. Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo is very relaised for a two-star, with an open kitchen. Many dishes are accompanied by the chef's signature decadent mashed potatoes. His first Japanese

effort, Yashi, is one of the best in Europe. Odyssey, located at the pool complex, is his seafood-driven concept. Done in partnership with fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld, it is exclusive to Metropole guests.

Chef Beneit Witz Witz is famed for his handling of the region's seafood. His Vistamar venue at the Hermitage hotel delivers ocean views along with Michelin-starred cuising.

Marcel Ravin Blue Bay at the Monte Carlo Bay Hotel restaurant earns a star for its Mediterranean-Caribbean fusion cuisine by Ravin, who halls from Martinique.

Nobu Matsuhlsa The city's most recent high-profile addition is an outpost of Nobu, serving the groundbreaking Peruvian-Japanese fusion cuisine from the global legend Nobu Matsuhisa. Located at the Fairmont Hotel, it's now one of the most popular spots in town.

#### LODGING

Hôtel de Paris Located on the casino square, Hôtel de Paris was just extensively renovated with fewer, but larger, rooms, brand new suites and a pool and spa to complement its beach. Restaurants include Alain Ducasse's three-star Le Louis XV. hoteldeparismontecarlo.com

Metropole One of the few hotels that the government doesn't own a stake in. Metropole contains the city's finest spa, a Karl Lagerfeld-designed pool, first-class rooms and four restaurants by legendary chef Joël Robuchon. It is attached to a luxury retail shopping mall, in the heart of Monte-Carlo. Metropole.com/en

Hôtel Hermitage Located near the Metropole, the city's third most luxurious hotel, Hôtel Hermitage, is a sister property to the Hôtel de Paris and home to the Michelin-starred Vistamar restaurant, as well as a notable cigar and spirits lounge. hotelhermitagemontecarlo.com

Fairmont Monte Carlo The large Fairmont has its own casing as well as Mediterranean views and some of the most coveted vantage points for watching the Grand Prix. fairmont.com/monte-carlo/

Le Meridien The most resort-like of the Monte Carlo hotels, Le Meridien has both a beach and a pool complex: its cigar-friendly lobby overlooks the Mediterranean.

lemendienmontecarlo.com

medieval walled Èze village, just over the border in France, is a treat. The views are breathtaking and it's home to the wonderful Michelin two-star Chevre d'Or...I was fortunate to see Elizabeth Taylor and George Hamilton in the dining room there once."

Other top attractions include the renowned Oceanographic Institute and its museum. Founded in 1910, it was one of the principality's first forays into environmental awareness and protection. Built into the cliffside, it contains three floors of public aquariums and museums. It also has an open-air roof top bar and cafe with one of the best views in Monaco. The Prince's Palace, originally built as a fort atop the Old City in the 13th century, has vast sections open to the public. Daily tours include the room where Prince Rainier and Grace Kelly were married. Its daily changing of the guard is almost whimsical. The Exotic Gardens feature more than 7,000 flora from around the world, in addition to a cave filled with stalactites and stalagmites. The 1878 Opera House, part of the casino, is renowned for attracting world-class opera singers and ballets. Few visitors miss the Princess Grace Rose Garden, which boasts 8,000 rose bushes, asmall lake and an

olive grove spread across nearly to acres. The separate and equally well-done Japanese Zen garden sits at the city's eastern edge.

Prince Rainier was an avid collector, and today his LOO-plus vintage cars are on public display, including the rare 1903 De Dion Bouton and dozens of models from the likes of Rolls Royce, Facel Vega, Lamborghini, Delahaye, Packard, Ferrari, Maserati and Delage.

For many visitors, food and lodging are highlights, with the two most successful living chefs in good company with other culinary stars. "It is home to some of the finest hotels and restaurants in all of Europe, from Alain Ducasse's Le

Louis XV at Hôtel de Paris to Joël Robuchon at the Metropole," notes Scully. Born in France, Ducasse fell under Monaco's spell and is now a citizen. His three-star restaurant is the must-have reservation, with an elaborate chef's tasting menu that varies daily and a dress code. Not to be outdone, his rival Joël Robuchon, nicknamed "Chef of the Century," operates all four dining venues in the Metropole Hotel. His namesake Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo is very relaxed for a two-star. Robuchon also does the bar menu, available on the hotel's cigar-friendly patio, a coveted spot for the Ft race.

Monaco is clearly a place for living the good life. "They love their Champagne in Monaco, and every lunch or dinner begins with at least aglass," adds Shiels. "If a restaurant does not wheel a Champagne cart tableside when you are seated, that's a red flag." Even the Fairmont's 24-hour lobby restaurant (with outdoor seating for smoking) has an ice and bubbly laden cart. Rooftop bars can be found atop the Oceanographic Institute and most hotels. All are digar friendly.



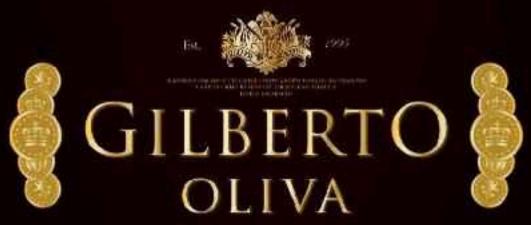
The prestigious Manada Grand Prix is he dientirely on the streets of the principality (above). Sebastian Vette de ebrates his victory in the port race.

Monaco never stops polishing, expanding and rethinking. When the city decided to upgrade its yacht club, architect Sir Norman Foster was brought in to design the new building, which looks like a ship on the waterfront. The Hôtel de Paris is just now wrapping up a major renovation that added a pool. The Metropole is endlessly upgrading, and along with the four Robuchon eateries it now has a Lagerfield-designed pool area and a Givenchy spa—where the snack table offers

Joël Robuchon macaroons. "People who come every few years feel like it's a different place because we're always transforming," says Batthyany.

Descriptions that would pigeonhole Monaco as "the classy Vegas," or "Dubai with soul," fall well short of the reality. The place is more like the best of Paris, with the cultural, culinary and historical highlights distilled to their finest and set next to a beach—with a surprising authenticity. It's as if the country has not forgotten its roots. Strict rules require that all new builds contain affordable subsidized housing for working-class residents. It's inspiring the way royalty moves among the common folk with minimal fuss, and day-trippers off cruise ships are welcomed as warmly as Hollywood stars. It's a perfect long weekend on its own, an anchor for a visit to Provence, the South of France or Italy, and a popular cruise destination. And for any of these, it's a magical spot. •

Larry Olmsted writes often on travel for Cloar Apicianapa.



PRODUCTO DE NICARAGUA -



Blanc



Reserva

This new bland, Cillberto Oliva Reserva, homos that partianch with their line release since 2012.

This capar has been highly naticipated by the true arthosousts.



#### churchills.

Big. eegant and stately, the Churchi lingar size commands your attention for well more than an hour. In this office day, see that age in which we live, they aren't as popular as they used to be, but we have found no shortage of fine examples worthy of you setting aside the demands of the day. Seven of the digars in this category scored go points or higher, ed by the superbig point showing for the Punch Albert Dinner from Honduras. This fine digar, made with an intenguing combination of tobaccos from Central and South America, the Dominican Republic and Connecticut, is not only a top-scorer, but an exception alvaile. A seven in this ong digar for less than \$6? That makes us simile. A thoroff Nicaraguan digars scored go points. The Oliva Serie Vi Melanio Churchi i comes from Oliva Cigars, the San Cristobal is from the Gardia family and Ashton Distributors. And the Pappy Van Winkle smoke is named for one of the rarest of Bourbon whickeys, and made by the calented digarmakers at Drew Estate. You' indoe the absence of Cuban Churchi is. The Cuban digarindustry has contacted on its Churchi is, making Havana Churchi is guite rare.



#### HONDURAS

RINGGAUGE 47 LENGTH 71/4"
FILLER HONDURAS NICARAGUA
DOM REP
BINDER U SA JCONN BROADLEAF
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### PUNCH AFTER DINNER

The smake of this dark Churchi is dense and chewy in texture. Its eather and earth notes are balanced by a molasses and brown sugar sweetness.

US: 55:29 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

93



#### NICARAGUA

RING CAUGE SO LENGTH 7\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### OLIVA SERIE V MELANIO CHURCHILL

A arge, box pressed digar with rounded shoulders.
Initial pulls are rich with a chood ate maited sweetness underscored with fresh sour apple and a mesquite finish.

USC 214,00 LLKC N/A STRENGTH: Medium

92



#### NICARAGUA

RING CAUGE 48 LENGTH 7\*
FILLER NICARAGUA DOM REP
BINDER INDONESIA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### PAPPY VAN WINKLE TRADITION

CHURCHILL

Rich and spicy from the start, this cigar's opulent draw shows big notes of a monds, carameland wood. The coffee bean finish is long and rich.

U.S.: \$23.60 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 7\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### SAN CRISTOBAL REVELATION TRIUMPH

The box pressed form gives this Churchina rectangular appearance. It's a hearty cigar that has the smokiness of a Sumatra bean coffee, daily red wine notes and a bit of carame.

US: 58.75 ILK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

92



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 71/4"
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WEAPPER NICARAGUA

#### BRICK HOUSE CHURCHILL

Earthy and cedary with clear, zesty notes of grange peel and citrus that lead to a graham cracker finish. U.S.: \$7.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium 91



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE 47 LENGTH 7\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER MEXICO

#### SURROGATES SATIN GLOVE

A box pressed Churchi with an even burn and open draw. Its codary aspects are complemented by notes of coffee, chood ate and carame.

LLSD \$3000 LLKD N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Pull

91



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 7°
FILLER NICARAGUA DOM REP
PANAMA
BINDER ECUADOR
WRAPPER MEXICO

#### MICALLEF EXPERIENCIA LA CREMA

A Churchi with an excelent draw and burn. Each puff shows an earthy, eathery quality along with touches of nuts and chood ate. The finish hints of cinnamon.

LLS:: \$13.00 LLK:: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 7°
FILLER DOM REP
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER DOM REP

#### AGING ROOM QUATTRO F59 CONCERTO

A box pressed Churchi with a clean, even burn. Notes of wood and eather are accentuated by spice and citrus, though the finish is a bit short.

LLS: \$10.74 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fdl

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING CAUGE 48 LENGTH 7° FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER U.S.A.JCONN BROADLEAF ARTURO FUENTE AÑEJO RESERVA NO. 48

A dark madura covered in give spats near the head.
It's a woody, earthy smake with same toastiness and a menthal finish.
USC \$11.25 ILKC N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 7"
FILLER DOM REP
BIN DER MEXICO
WRAPPER U SA JCONN SHADE

#### DANIEL MARSHALL BLACK LABEL CHURCHILL

The lightly hued, bland wrapper of this cigar foreshad ows the mild, straw and hay qualities of the smake, which also caves faint impressions of cloves and wood.

LLS: S8.95 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING CAUGE SO LENGTH 7° FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA GLORIA CUBANA CHURCHILL

Roughly constructed with a sloppy cap, this is a predominantly leathery, earthy smoke with some heavymineral notes and a sharp, charred wood finish. U.S.: 2639 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium 88



#### U.S.A.

RING CAUGE 47 LENGTH 7°
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WEAPPER NICARAGUA

#### TATUAIE RESERVA SW

There's a floral nate underscoring this Churchill's peppery and spicy cardamomiqualities, which lead to a woody finish. The draw is a bit firm but delivers substantial smake.

U.S.: \$13.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fall

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 7\*
FILLER DOM REP
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### VILLIGER CUELLAR CONNECTICUT KREME CHURCHILL

The easy draw of this Churchi produces ats ofcreamy smake with hints of wood, earth and sweet nougat, though the finish is charry.

LLS: 2620 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Mild-Medium

88

Few world choose a corona as their go-to digar size, but the didy shape makes for a perfect shorter smoke. The Cuban standard for the corona vito a is a very strict; 1/4 inches long by 42 ring, for Cical Arciovatio casting standards, our corona category covers digars between § 1/4 to 6 inches long, 18 ring gauge to 45. Only four scored go points or higher. The Dominican Romeoly Juleta Gedro de Luxe No.2, made with a heavy component of Dominican tobaccos and wrapped in Indonesian cover eat, led the category with a score of 92 points. With a suggested recair price of \$6.72, cis also a bargain. Cubars Cohiba Siglo II scored 91, and a pair of well-known Dominican smokes, the Arcuro Fuente Don Carlos No. 1 and the Montecristo White Montecristo Court scored 90 points.



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGFH 5 1/2" FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER INDONESIA

#### ROMEO Y JULIETA 1875 CEDRO DELUXENO. 2

This small coronade iversible, chewy notes of nougat, pistachio and a monds fortified with eathery intonations. Rich and elegant.

LLS: 26.72 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

92



#### CUBA

RINGGAUGE 42 LENGTH 5 1/8\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE OCTOBER 2015

#### COHIBA SIGLO II (TUBO)

Distinct notes of eather become evident on the first pull, followed by an earthy tangliness, a hint of orange marma ade and a chood ate finish. Rich and delicious, U.S.: N/A U.K.: [24.50] STRENGTH: Medium-Full

91



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 44 LENGTH 5 1/2° FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER CAMEROON

#### ARTURO FUENTE DON CARLOS NO. 3

Though covered in a dull, office ared wrapper, this again draws and burns beautifully, offering a nuity, fruity smake with a lauch of sour cherry and honey like finish.

USC \$9.83 LLKC N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGTH 5 1/2"
FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### MONTECRISTO WHITE MONTECRISTO COURT

Covered in a textbook, go den brown shade of medio claro wrapper. The draw is firm, but still imparts a creamy, floral smoke that picks up a graham cracker note and mild earthiness.

LLS: \$10.50 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 18 LENGTH 5 1/2"
FILLER NICARAGUA DOM REP
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER U SA /CONN BROADLEAF

#### DEBONAIRE MADURO SAGITA PETITE LANCERO

A near black corona with a pigtal cap, It has a brownie like, cocoa quality buttressed by ground coffee notes and a tangy, charry finish.

U.S.: 28.74 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fdl

89



#### CURA

RINGGAUGE 42 LENGTH 5 1/4° FILLER CUBA BINDER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA BOX DATE JULY 2016

#### H. UPMANN CORONA MAJOR

Agritty looking corona with a notably uneven burn. Notes of wood and vanilla carry traces of earth and nuttiness, but the burn affected the score.

LLS: N/A U.K.: [16.60] STRENGTH: Medium

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 42 LENGTH 5 9/16\* FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER USA /CONN SHADE

#### LEÓN JIMENES NO. 4

Pale and impy, this corona is far better than it looks, delivering a thick, creamy smake hinting of nutmeg, taisin and spicy gingersnap.

LLS: 56.14 LLK:: N/A STRENCTH: Mild-Medium

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGTH \$ 1/2"
FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA
USA /PENN BROADLEAF
BINDER ECUADOR
WRAPPER MEXICO

#### MATILDE OSCURA CORONA

Earthy from start to finish, this dark, maduro wrapped corona shows intermittent notes of sassafras, minera s and black cherry as well.

LS: 57.99 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

88



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE 44 LENGTH 6° FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER HONDURAS WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### HERRERA ESTELI LONSDALE DELUXE

Fore and nutty, this picture perfect corona develops heavy notes of ceder before alseightly vegetal finish.

LLS: \$9.28 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

87



#### U.S.A.

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGTH STJ4\*
FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA
BINDER ECUADOR
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA PALINA ILLUMINATION COLONIAL

A predominantly woody coronal that draws and burns evenly. It becomes languand zesty, but leaves that palate a bit dry.

US-10.50 UK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 44 LENGTH 51/2" FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER U SA JOONN BROADLEAF

#### ASHTON AGED MADURO NO. 20.

A rough looking oight with a ginary wrapper and give spots. Its light varil a notes become bready and herbal before turning earthy, though the finish is a bit sectharine.

ILS: 59.15 ILK: N/A STRENGTH: Mild

86



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 42 LENGTH S 1/2° FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER BRAZIL MEXICO WRAPPER MEXICO

#### TABAQUERO HAMLET PAREDES CORONA

Nearly black in appearance, this corona is a sweet, earthy smoke carrying hints of coder, toast and a colar ite finish.

US: \$8.55 U.K.: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

## corona gordas

There's a reason why corona gordas (a so known as coros) have become one of the cigar word's most popular sizes. They are fairly fac, but not overwhelmingly so, and they have considerable but not unmanageable length. On top of that, the guid by events superb. Twelve of the cigars in this category scored go points or higher, and with the lowest score at 88 points, there isn't a bad digar in the entire bunch. Three topped the charts at go points, and each of them are well-known to the digarism oking outlied. Joya de Nicaragua, H. Upmann from Cuba and Ashton VSG from the Dominican Republic. If this review is any barometer, it's hard to go wrong with a corona gorda.



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE SO LENGTH 5 1/2" FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER ECUADOR ASHTON VIRGIN SUN GROWN ROBUSTO

Enrabed in a chaca ate brown wrapper, this cigar offers efined nates afask, cacas and nuts a ang with hints of ed wine and malasses. Balanced and elegant. US: \$11.25 UK: N/A STRENGTH: Fall

92



#### CUBA

RINGGAUGE 46 LENGTH 55/8" FILLER CUBA BINDER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA BOX DATE MAY 2014

H. UPMANN MAGNUM 46 (TUBO)

There's a toasty, notly quality to this smake that a so smacks of sweet grange marma ade and eather, eaving as ighty flora aftertaste. Rich and opulent. U.S.: N/A U.K.: [23.60] STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SZ LENGTH S 1/2" FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### JOYA DE NICARAGUA ANTAÑO 1970 GRAN RESERVA ROBUSTO GRANDE

Dark and box pressed, this attractive digar has a pleasanty. to asty care that's elevated by hints a fisalfron, hickory wood and choop are. The finish is sweet and woody. U.S.: 29.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fdl

92



#### CUBA

RINGGAUGE 54 LENGTH 6 1/8" FILLER CUBA BINDER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA BOX DATE OCTOBER 2017

#### COHIBA TALISMÁN EDICIÓN LIMITADA 2017

Each puffal this dark, pigtalled cigar unfalds layers of honey, minerals and a mond notes before to der impressions of cocoa powder and oak emerge. U.S.: N/A U.K.: f69.00 STRENGTH: Medium

91



#### HONDURAS.

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 6" FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER HONDURAS WRAPPER HONDURAS

#### PADILLA 1932 TORO

Crafted with an excelent head and cap, this dark, dily digar has a rich leather and sweet cocca quality that meids pleasantly with touches of juniper and lanise. U.S.: \$10,00 ILK:: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

91



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SO LENGTH S 1/2" FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER MEXICO WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### ROCKY PATEL PLATINUM LIMITED EDITION HABANO ROBUSTO

Rich and earthy from the first pull, this dark, pressed digar shows a dark chood ate and espresso bean charact ter with hints of toast and an oaky, red wine finish. US5 \$11.60 U.K.: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Fall



#### HONDURAS

RINGGAUGE SZ LENGTH 61/4° FILLER NICARAGUA HONDURAS BINDER NICARAGUA HONDURAS WRAPPER HONDURAS

#### ALEC BRADLEY PRENSADO LOST ART GRAN TORO

A based pressed eiger with a rich, earthy quality and carame, sweetness along with hints of chestnuts and herbs. The finish is long.

US:: \$10.95, UK:: N/A | STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 54 LENGTH 5 1/2\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE DECEMBER 2016

#### PARTAGÁS SERIE E NO. 2 (TUBO)

Fore first pulls become toesty and daily, carrying hints of coops been before suddenly turning piquant with a jabahero pepper spice.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: [34.20 STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SE LENGTH 6° FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### PLASENCIA ALMA DEL CAMPO SENDERO

The superbidraw of this well made digar offers lots of white pepper, dak and cocoa notes, interspersed with touches of salt and a floral finish.

LSC \$17.00 LLKC N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 48 LENGTH 61/4\*
FILLER HONDURAS NICARAGUA
DOM REP PERU US A/PENN
BROADLEAF
BIN DER MEXICO

#### PSYKO SEVEN TORO

Initial notes of dampness quickly dissipate, developing an earthy, oakly smoke with hints of fruit, espresso and cocoa.

US: \$8.26 UK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

90



#### NICARAGUA

WRAPPER DOM REP

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH S 1/2\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### TIERRA VOLCAN CLASICO

Rolled with a rounded head and uncut foot. Initial puffs are strong and leathery with flore underlones before the owing out to show coder and a hint of chocolate.

LISE 29.95 LIKE N/A STRENCTH: Medium

90



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 61/2\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DAFE OCTOBER 2017

#### TRINIDAD LA TROVA

Crafted with a pigtai cap, this large cigar delivers notes of fresh to bacco, wheat and notes that are balanced by sweeter touches of carameland gingers nap.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: §33.30 STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SO LENGTH S 3/4\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### EL CENTURION ROBUSTO

This robusto has a clear maily, nutty character with saity hints of eather. Though covered in a rough wrapper, it's much tastier than it looks.

U.S.: \$7.20 LLK.: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Fall

89



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE S4 LENGTH 6\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### ESPINOSA HABANO TORO BOX-PRESSED

An alluringly box pressed digar with althree seam cap.
The creamy, nutty smoke carries a touch of cinnamon and algebra, bread dough finish.
U.S.: \$8.40 U.K.: N/A | STRENGTH: Medium

## figurados

Figurados, or shaped digars, cend to be better than average, so we were surprised to rate only four digars go points or higher in this particular caste test. The top-scoring digar of the group was the Alec Bradley Black Marbet Estell. This is a new version of the company's Black Marbet brand, made in Nicaragular ather than Honduras, It's a stronger smoke, medium to full in body, and coprovides a nice bang for the buck, with a suggested retail price of just under \$9. The Arturo Fuence Hemingway Classic has been consistently suiperbising the 1980s, and cis a standout smoke made with Cameroon wrapper. A La Fior Dominicana and a Montecristo rounded out our gos.



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SZ LENGTH 61/Z\* FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA HONDURAS WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### ALEC BRADLEY BLACK MARKET ESTEL!

A rich combination of savory and sweet, this dily torpedo is dided with earthy, eathery notes be anced by undercurrents of raisin and occora. Delicious and satisfying.

USC \$8.75 UK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 46 LENGTH 7\*
FILLER DOM REP
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER CAMEROON

#### ARTURO FUENTE HEMINGWAY CLASSIC

Along, double tapered perfects with a superbidraw. Its toasty, woody qualities med harmonious y with notes of tea, cashew and carame. An elegant cigar.

LLS: \$9.55 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

92

93



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 54 LENGTH 6\*

FILLER DOM REP

BIN DER DOM REP

WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA FLOR DOMINICANA DOUBLE LIGERO CHISEL

Fashioned with a wedge shaped head, this we made figurado is spicy and bold with oats of eather notes and some woodiness. The finish is rich and hearty, U.S.: 29.70 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Fall

91



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SZ LENGTH 61/8\*
FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA
PERU
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### MONTECRISTO GRUPO DE MAESTROS PRIVATE BATCH III BELLCOSO

This dip figured agers the paper with fairly dear notes of eather, wood and nuanced herbs. There is as ight peppermint zing on the finish.

USC \$16.00 U.K.: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

90



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 54 LENGCH 5 1/2"
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### DON PEPIN GARCIA CUBAN CLASSIC 1970

A ight and toasty torpedo with plenty of a mondinotes, a touch of vanilla bean and a woody finish. Tasty and consistent,

89

WRAPPER NICARAGUA LLS: 58.20 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 50 LENGTH 41/2\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA DOM REP
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### EL TROVADOR PETIT BELICOSO

The earthy smake of this short, box pressed figurada a so conveys touches of coconut and wood before a subtle hint of marzipan on the finish.

LLS: \$7.75 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



#### CURA

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 4 3/4°
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE APRILIZOIS

#### MONTECRISTO PETIT NO. 2 (TUBO)

This short figuredo smakes a bit hot and fast, showing a hickory and mesquite character along with earthiness, sweet cinnamon and a grassy finish.

US: N/A U.K.: [24:20] STRENGTH: Medium

89



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 52 LENGTH 5 1/2\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### PADRÓN 6000

This box pressed pyramid has a langy start that eads to a mostly nully smoke with hints of icorice, dark toast and a wine like finish.

LLS-28-10 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

89



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE SZ LENGTH 61/8° FILLER DOM REP BINDER DOM REP WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### DAVIDOFF MILLENNIUM BLEND SERIES PIRAMIDES

The elongated taper and tip gives this torpedo a dramatic appearance. It draws and burns even y, showing a spicy palate of white pepper, saffron and cardamom with earthiness and a flinty finish. USC \$23.50 ILK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium 88



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 61/4"

52 LENGTH 61/4" FILLER NICARAGUA BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER BRAZIL

#### E.P. CARRILLO ELENCOS ACTO MAYOR

A very dark torpedo with a toothy wrapper.

Notes of coffee bean and earth become sweeter, but the finish is a bit dry.

LLS: 29.25 LLK:: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FILLER DOM REP MEXICO
BINDER MEXICO
BINDER MEXICO

#### MACANUDO CAFÉ DUKE OF WINDSOR

Oils are seeping through the wrapper of this pointy digar, which has a conical tip. It's a toasty smoke with gentle notes of coves, lemon peel and a cedary finish. USC 29.19 LLKC N/A STRENGTH: Mild

88



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 6° FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER U SAJCONN BROADLEAF U SAJCONN SHADE WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### ROCKY PATEL ROYALE TO RPEDO

The wrapper of this box pressed be loasd is pristine and smooth. The smoke is dense and chewy with coffee, earth and a bit of dark chood ate, but the flavors become a bit moddled.

LLS: S11.60 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 60 LENGTH S 1/2\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WARAPPER NICARAGUA

#### CASA MAGNA COLORADO GRAN UNICO

This dily figurado draws and burns easily and evenly. It starts saity and sharp before notes of nuts and citrus usher in a mineral heavy finish.

LLS: \$9.20 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Fall

87



#### BAHAMAS

RINGGAUGE 48 LENGTH 71/8\*
FILLER COSTA RICA NICARAGUA
HON DURAS
BINDER ECUADOR
WRAPPER COSTA RICA

#### GRAYCLIFF CHATEAU GRAND CRU-SALOMON

A arge, and perfects with curves and tapers. The draw is tight, and first puffs are noted by musty before hints of eak, a monds and a flinty finish.

LLS: \$26.00 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

## miscellaneous\_

The Misce anebus category covers a wide range of smokes, so it's little surprise that the tasting has awide range of scores, from 85 points to 91. Acthe top is the Last Call by A.J. Fernandez, yet another example of the superbingars being made by this rising star from Nicaragua. Two of our favorite smaller smokes, the Padrón Serie 1906 No. 15 and the Montecristo Petit Edmundo, scored 90. Close behind were standout smokes by boutique brand I u sione and the much larger Montecristo. Note the 88-point performance by the Partagás Culebra. This Cuban curiosity, three smokes braided into one, is a fun distraction. Watch our video on culebras at video, rigaraficion adolcom.



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SO LENGTH 3 1/2" FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LAST CALL BY A.J. FERNANDEZ CHIQUITAS

A short, stout eiger with an uncut foot. It's a toasty, nutty smake fortified with chewy, earthy notes and a savory, eathery finish.

US: \$4.50 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

93



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 43/8\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE APRIL2014

#### MONTECRISTO PETIT EDMUNDO (TUBO)

Sweet and savory with a balanced, elegant interplay of eathery notes, cafe au lait and a dark chood ate finish. The draw is a bit firm.

LLS: N/A U.K.: £0.50 | STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



#### NICARAGUA

RING CAUGE 48 LENGTH 4°
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### PADRÓN SERIE 1926 NO. 35

A small box pressed mini robusto with a ush draw that imparts an earthy smake with toasty, fruit qualities and a mineral finish.

LLS: \$11.70 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fall

92



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 54 LENGTH 5 3/8\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DAFE JULY 2017

#### QUALD'ORSAY NO. 54

Rich woods, eather and chood are intonations eyer the parate in beautiful barance. The draw is options, the burn dead eyen, Airobust and flavorful cigar.

USC N/A U.K.: 14,00 supports STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE 44 LENGTH 4\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER MEXICO

#### ILLUSIONE 68 MADURO

So id to the touch, this small coronal has an open, substantial draw that layers the palate with a meaty, earthy smaller balanced by hints of ginger, icorice and a toffee sweetness.

US: \$6.90 ILK: N/A | STRENCTH: Full

91



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE S4 LENGTH 41/4"
FILLER NICARAGUA DOM REP
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### MONTE BY MONTECRISTO AI FERNANDEZ ROBUSTO

A short, fat, beautifully crafted digar that delivers heavy notes of coffee bean and chood ate. Hints of carame and clove precede a mineral like finish.

USDS 11.23 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



#### HONDURAS

RING GAUGE 48 LENGTH 4° FILLER HONDURAS BINDER HONDURAS

WRAPPER HONDURAS

#### EIROA 48X4

A softly pressed shart robusto that burns cool, even y and slow. There's a steady procession of fruit, earth and cedar, but the finish is a bit charky.

LLS: \$10.42 LLK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

89



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 54 LENGTH 43/8\*
FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE FEBRUARY 2016

#### TRINIDAD VIGÍA (TUBO)

This squat plug of a cigar is crafted with a neat piguai cap. Buttery notes of wood and crushed a mond are be anced by hints of agave and anise, though the finish is a bit dry.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: (2620 STRENGTH: Medium

89

88



#### NICARAGUA

RING CAUGE 52 LENGTH 4°
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER CAMEROON
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### CROMAGNON AQUITAINE KNUCKLE DRAGGER

US: 26.90 UK: N/A STRENCTH: Full

So idly packed with a strikingly gleaming wrapper, this short robusto is full of earthy, coffee notes and touches of sweetness, but the smake becomes a bit bitter and oily tasting.



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 43 LENGTH 3 3/4\*
FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER HONDURAS

#### NAT SHERMAN TIMELESS COLLECTION

NO. 5

Draped in a dark, dily wrapper, this robusto has a bit of a firm draw, but still imparts a saily, eathery smoke with notes of dried fruit and a sharp, daily finish.

LLSD 56.75 LLKD N/A STRENGTH: Medium

88



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 39 LENGTH S 3/4"

FILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE OCTOBER 2014

#### PARTAGÁS CULEBRA

Twisted and crooked, this serpentine cigar draws we , starting flora, and woody yet intensifying to show earth and black pepper spice.

LLS: N/A U.K.: [37.40] STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGTH 5 1/8\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### SERINO WAYFARER CORONA

A beautiful, reddish brown corona that de ivers a dense, creamy smoke rich in pistachio, hickory and coffee bean, but intermittent harshness affected the score.

US: 2635 UK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

88



#### CUBA

RING GAUGE 47 LENGEH 3 3/4° Filler Cuba Binder Cuba Wrapper Cuba Box Dafe July 2017

#### ROMEO Y JULIETA PETIT ROYALES

Stubby with a flat head, this diger burns a bit hot, but de ivers notes of spicy eather, nuts and map e sugar, though undercurrents of charred wood are persistent.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: f13.30 STRENGTH: Medium-Fill

87



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH 4° FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA U SA JCONN BROADLEAF BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### QUESADA SELECCIÓN ESPAÑA SHORT ROBUSTO

A shart rabusta whose wrapper is geaming with ail.
It's musty and earthy with prominent floral notes, some cedar and aid ry finish.

US: 58.50 UK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

## robustos

Short but stoot, robust as befor or name, the plump but diminutive robusto is one of the most popular cigar sizes in the world. These sawed off power smokes deliver complexity and strength in a short package, idea for most scuations. A half dozen of them scored go points, tying for highest score in the category. Among them are the La Aurora ADN Dominicana Robusto, an intriguing Dominican smoke powered by the addition of and ulpitobacco. This leaf is twisted into a hard log, and is typically smoked in a pipe, but La Aurora uses a bolofic in this bend, adding a unique caste from the Dominican Republic to this cigar. The other gos come from a mix of established, argentigarmaters and smaller boutique brands. La Alianza is a newer smoke from longtime cigar industry veteran Ernesto Perez. Carrillo. Cain comes from the Oliva Cigar Co. of Nicaragua, Guardian of the Farm is a small brand made by young cigarmaters (and finished with an uncut food). San Locano is from A.J. Fernandez and Vige, a tiny brand, once was named No. 2 Cigar of the Year by this magazine.



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH S'
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### CAIN DAYTONA 550

Draped in a clean wrapper, this cigar draws and burns perfectly. Woodsy undertones of earth and oak are en ividened by notes of apple cider, cinnamon and dried fruit.

LS: 56.10 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE 48 LENGTH 41/2° FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### GUARDIAN OF THE FARM RAMBO

Rolled with an uncut foot, this short robusto exhibits a nutty, woody character with undercurrents of star anise, coffee and haze nut. LLS: 57.30 LLK: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fall 90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 51
FILLER DOM REP
BIN DER DOM REP
WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA ALIANZA NATURAL

ROBUSTO SELECTO

The woody care of this oily rab

The woody care of this dily robusto is framed by notes of candy coated a monds and earthy barnyard, though the finish is a bitcharry.

LS: 26:30 LK: N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH S\*
FILLER DOM REP US A/PENN
BROADLEAF NICARAGUA
BINDER CAMEROON
WRAPPER DOM REP

#### LA AURORA ADN DOMINICANO ROBUSTO

A toothy robusto that leaves warm, toasty impressions on the palate before intensifying to show bolder notes of crushed black pepper and a coffee bean finish.

US: 57.25 U.K.: N/A STRENCTH: Full

90



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SZ LENGTH S\*
FILLER NICARAGUA HONDURAS
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER MEXICO

### SAN LOTANO REQUIEM MADURO ROBUSTO

Strikingly dark and box pressed, this robusto shows an earthy palate of cocola, coffee bean, raisins and a fudgy finish. The draw is a bit firm.

LLSC \$8.00 LLKC N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



#### NICARAGUA

RING CAUGE SZ LENGTH SY FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### VIAIE EXCLUSIVO NICARAGUA ROBUSTO

Nearly vein ess, this pristine wrapper is the color of dark chocolate. Sweet notes of maple, brown sugar and toffee play off of the cigar's inherent earthiness and spice. The finish is a bit muted.

U.S.: \$8.20 (U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### MEXICO

RING GAUGE 50 LENGTH 5 1/4\*
FILLER NICARAGUA MEXICO
BIN DER MEXICO
WRAPPER MEXICO

#### CASA TURRENT SERIE 1973 ROBUSTO

The draw of this box pressed cigar is a bit airy, but offers prominent notes of dark choods be and candied orange pee with touches of earth and a woody finish.

LLS=28.50 LLK=N/A STRENCTH: Medium-Full

89



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 5° FILLER DOM REP NICARAGUA BIN DER MEXICO WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### DAVIDOFF WINSTON CHURCHILL THE LATE HOUR ROBUSTO

The textbook construction of this dark, ofly eiger is evident in its perfect draw and burn. Initial mustiness eventually passes to show a trio of earth, wood and loast.

ILS-217.50 ILK-N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



#### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH S'
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WRAPPER NICARAGUA

#### VEGAS CUBANAS INVICTOS

Bumps and ridges protrude under the wrapper of this dark robusto, which is flore and nutty with hints of fruit and a charky finish.

U.S.: 27.00 U.K.: N/A STRENCTH: Medium

89



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FILLER NICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA GLORIA CUBANA COLECCIÓN RESERVA ROBUSTO

A bit is umpy to the touch, this cigar is woody and herbal in character. Spicy and charky elements also come through before a predominantly woody finish. U.S.: 27.39 (LK:: N/A | STRENGTH: Medium 88



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE 52 LENGTH 5° FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER MEXICO

#### LA FLOR DOMINICANA 1994 CONGA

The nutty, herbal nates of this dark robusto are muted and a bit flat. Some black tea nates also come through, but the digar seems diosed.

U.S.: \$8.10 LLK:: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fall

87



#### NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE SO LENGTH 47/8\*
FILLER NICARAGUA
BINDER NICARAGUA
WARPPER NICARAGUA

#### REGIUS SUN GROWN ROBUSTO

U.S.: \$8.25 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Fill

This dark robusto forms a flaky ash as it burns, It offers a combination of sweet cedar and spice, though there's some harshness on the finish.

0/



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE SO LENGTH ST FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WRAPPER ECUADOR

#### LA BARBA SIEMPRE 5 X 50

A yellowish robusto that forms a flaky ash. The smoke is creamy and light with a straw and hay character and dry woody finish.

U.S.: 25.60 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild-Medium

#### TOP SCORES, VALUES AND STRENGTH | BUND TASTE TEST NO. 143

#### TOP SCORES



93 Alec Bradley Black Market Esteli Torpedo Nicaragua •\$8.75 • Figurado • Medium-Fu



93 Last Call by A.J. Fernandez Chiquitas Nicaragua • \$4.50 • Misce aneous • Medium-Fu



93 Punch After Dinner Honduras • \$5.89 • Churchi • Medium-Fu



92 Arturo Fuente Herningway Classic
Dominican Republic - \$9.55 - Figurado - Medium



92 Ashlon Virgin Sun Grown Robusto
Dominican Republic • \$11.25 • Corona Gorda • Fu



92 H. Upmann Magnum 46 [Tubo]
Cuba · £23.80 · Corona Gorda · Medium-Fu



92 Joya de Nicaragua Antaño Gran Res. Robusto Grande Nicaragua • \$9.50 • Corona Gorda • Medium-Fu



92 Montecristo Petit Edmundo [Tubo] Cuiba • £20.90 • Misce aneous • Medium-Fu



92 Oliva Serie V Melanio Churchill Nicaragua • \$14.00 • Churchi • Medium



92 Padrón Serie 1926 No. 35 Nicaragua • \$11.70 • Misce aneous • Medium-Fu



92 Pappy Van Winkle Tradition Churchill Nicaragua • \$23.60 • Churchi • Medium-Fu



92 Romeo y Juliela 1875 Cedro Deluxe No. 2 Dominican Republic • \$6.72 • Corona • Medium

#### TOP VALUES



93 Last Call by A.J. Fernandez Chiquitas Nicaragua •\$4.50 • Misce aneous • Medium-Fu



93 Punch After Dinner Honduras - \$5,89 - Churchi - Medium-Fu



90 Caim Daylona 550 Nicaragua •\$6.10 • Robusto • Mediu m-Fu

#### MILDER CIGARS

88 León Jimenes No. 4 Dominican Republic - \$ 6.14 - Corona - Mild-Medium

88 Macanudo Café Duke of Windsor Dominican Republic • \$9.19 • Figurado • Mid

88 Villiger Cuellar Connecticut Kreme Churchill
Dominican Republic - \$6.83 - Churchi - Mild-Medium

86 Ashlon Aged Maduro No. 29
Dominican Republic • \$9.15 • Corona • Mild

86 La Barba Siempre 5 x 50

Dominican Republic - \$ 5.60 - Robusto - Mid-Medium

#### MEDIUM-BODIED CIGARS

92 Arturo Fuente Hemingway Classic Dominican Republic • \$9.55 • Figurado • Medium

92 Oliva Serie V Melanio Churchill Nicaragua • \$14.00 • Churchi • Medium

92 Romeo y Julieta 1875 Cedro Deluxe No. 2 Dominican Republic - \$ 5.72 - Corona - Medium

92 San Cristobal Revelation Triumph Nicaragua • \$8.75 • Churchi • Medium

91 Brick House Churchill Nicaragua • \$7.00 • Churchi • Medium

#### STRONGER SMOKES

92 Ashlon Virgin Sun Grown Robusto
Dominican Republic • \$11.25 • Corona Gorda • Fu

92 Pappy Van Winkle Tradition Churchill Nicaragua • \$23.60 • Churchi • Medium-Fu

92 Quai d'Orsay No. 54 Cuba - 14.00 EURO - Misce aneous - Medium-Fu

91 La Flor Dominikana Double Ligero Chisel Dominican Republic • \$9.70 • Figurado • Fu

90 La Aurora ADN Dominicano Robusto Dominican Republic • \$7.25 • Robusto • Fu

CIGAR AFICIONADO'S 100-POINT SCALE Classic 95, 100 - Outstanding 90, 94 - Very good to excellent 80, 89 - Average to good commercial quality 70, 79. Don't waste your money 0, 69 - Not available #/A - Note: all priors are manufacturers' suggested retail, before taxes.

12 FASTEST

WHO WILL WIN THE

80 CIGARS RATED

WINNING BIG WITH SMALL CASINO GAMES

JOE MANGANIELLO BISING STAR

There's No Other Magazine Like It—In The World

Visit CigarAficionado.com to Subscribe



## LA FLOR DE YNCLAN

TOBACCO

--

TOP 25
BEST CIGARS OF
2017

#10

CIGAR AFICIONADO



JIGAR AFICIONADO \* \* \* \*

ROBUSTO



Cigars Are Not a Safe Alternative to Cigarettes.



## connoisseur's corner

A TASTING OF VINTAGE CIGARS



Monte 5s are the esser known, smaller siblings of the ubiquitous Montecristo No. 4s.

This we laged example comes from a box of 15, which looks similar to modern day boxes, but a closer look shows the far thicker id, a der Cuban lax seal and the absence of the "Habanos" sticker on the upper right hand corner of the box. The diminutive cigar, with its a luring chocolate brown wrapper, fits nicely into your fingers and has an elegant look. The smoke is delicious, the draw easy and open from the first puff. While the little cigar is nearly 60 years old, it brims with flavors of icorice.

and sweet nutmeg. A wonderful digar that delivers phenomenal flavor in a very small package.

Markin R. Shanken



#### 96 BOLIVAR ROYAL CORONA (2006)

This Bo ivar is from the same vintage that was named Cigar of the Year. More than a decade ater, it's still a rich smoke, though earth, coffee and eather are now in the background. Nuttiness has taken center stage, showing pistachio, a mond and haze nut, brought together by a creamy hint of nougat sweetness. We predicted that this cigar would get better with age. We were right. Gregory Mostolo.



#### 95 HOYO DE MONTERREY EPICURE NO. 1 (1991)

I took this slim, elegant smake from a cabinet of 50, where it's been patiently sleeping for more than 25 years. It took greed by to the flame, and had a mellow flawor at first, with a light a mondiquality. Later, a wonderful note of honey and graham cracker emerged, sprink ed with a touch of earth on the finish. A pleasant, elegant and supremey be anced smake.

David Sarona



#### 94 ARTURO FUENTE AÑEJO 5.S.S. SHARK NO. 77 (2007)

A dark, imposing figurado with a dark and toothy broad eaf wrapper. It was a leather and pepper in its youth, but it years of age have tempered its strength. It takes on a coop and at the start, then shows some lighter hints of that odleather quality. The finish has a touch of sweetness mixed in with the hearty wood. It's still strong, but not the unbrided power house it was to years ago. Dovid Sorono

CIGAR AFICIONADO'S

# B S V E G A S

# 

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2018 | THE MIRAGE



TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 1, 2018
LASVEGASBIGSMOKE.COM



TOP SCORES OF 2017		
48	Can be Espend da	Coba
94	Artura Fuente Dan Caras Eye of the Shark	Dam Rep
94	Padron 1964 Anniversary Series Toro Natura	Nicaragua
94		Nicaragua
94	Ramea y Julieta Shart Church	Eube
93	Archetype Axis Mund Tara	Nicaragua
93	Ashtan Hertage Pura Sa Be casa Na Z	Dam Rep
32	Ashtan Symmetry Be casa	Dam Rep
92	Jaya Black Nacturna	Nicaragua
92	Macanudo insignado Drange Church	Handures
92	My Father The Judge Grand Robusto	Nicaragua
92	New Word Para Especia Tara	Nicaragua
92	Padrán 6000 Madura	Nicaragua
92	Padrón 1964 Anniversary Seres Imperal Natura	Nicaragua
92	Padrán 1964 Anniversary Seires Principe Natura	N caragua
95	Partagás Lustama Pasenca A ma Fuerte Generación V	Euba
95	Rocky Pate Vintage 2003 Cameroon Church	Nicaragua Honduras
95	V gerta Forde Yncan Robusto	Dam Rep
92	HE SENTENCE CONTROL (1985) HE SENTENCE (1985) HE S	Nicaragua
-	A ec Brad ey Post Embargo Lancero	Honduras
	Artura Fuente Rasada Sungrawn	Tital training
	Magnum R V to a Fifty-Eght"	Dam Rep
92	Ashtan Virgin Sun Grawn Be casa Na 1	Dam Rep
92	Ashban V rg n Sun Grawn Rabusta	Dam Rep
92	Baliver Belicasa Fina	Euba
92	CAD to a Cad	Honduras
92	Casa Fernandez Agandrea Leaf Torpedo	USA
92	Casa Magina Colorado Diadema	Nicaragua
92	CLE Preto SOXS	Nicaragua
92		Euba
70000	E P Cerr a DuskSa das	Dam Rep
92		Honduras
200	Enclave Figurado	Nicaragua
	Esp nose Habano No. 4	Nicaragua
	For de Las Anti as Maduro Corona	Nicaragua
	Guardian of the Farm Alpoid Selection de Warped Joya de Nicaragua Guatro Einoo Reserva	Nicaragua
32	Especa Tarpeda	Nicaragua
42	Mantecrata Na Z	Euba
39990	Manteersta Na 3	Euba
25/51	Mantecrista Artisan Seires Batch 1 Tara	Dam Rep
	D va Sere V Be casa	Nicaragua
92		Nicaragua
92	Diva Serie V Melanio Maduro Church	Nicaragua
92	Padron 1964 Anniversary Series Torpedo Natura	Nicaragua
92	Padron Ser e 1926 No. 35 Maduro	Nicaragua
92	Pappy Van Winkle Tradition Church	Nicaragua
92	Rafae Gonzalez 88 Exclusivo Asia Pacifico	Cuba
0.500	Ramon Alignes Specially Selected	Edba
	Reg us Exclusiva U.S.A. Pressed Perfecta	Nicaragua
	Racky Pate Plat num Limited Edition Halband Tara	Nicaragua
92		Nicaragua
92	Romed by Romed y Julieta Aging Room Small Batch FZS Cantadr	Dam Rep
92	Ramea y Julieta Church	Euba
92		Hond was
92		USA
	Tatuaje La Verté La Vérté 2013	Nicaragua
	The Edge Maduro Missie	Hond area
	Trinidad Topes Edición Limitada 2016	Euba
	Undercrawn Sun Brawn Fyng Pg	N caragua
92		Nicaragua Dom Roo
32	V gerta FordeYncan Torpedo	Dam Rep
	Source	: Ocon dire ichood

Again, it all comes down to reliable data. Last year, every one of those 668 digars were evaluated by our panel of digar-smoking editors and underwent a blind tasting process. That means that each digar was stripped of its label (or labels) and affixed with a generic, numbered white band. Before smoking, the editors know nothing about the digar's country of origin, the blend of tobaccos contained inside or its price. This way, each digar was taken at face value and judged solely on its appearance, performance and, most important of all, its taste. The entire process is managed by a full-time tasting coordinator who goes out and purchases the digars from reputable retailers and high-end tobacconists. He then dreates a code and passes out the digars to each panelist for review. To be absolutely certain that the identity of each digar remains unknown, the tasting coordinator is not a member of the tasting panel.

We can't stress enough the importance of a blind tasting process, and its one that we have employed throughout the entire history of this magazine, which dates back to 1992. Knowing the identity of the digar can (and will) seriously prejudice the smoker—in both negative or positive ways—and affect the outcome of a score. Our method removes any possible preconceived notions and puts every digar on a level playing field. It's the only way to give an honest, accurate and objective evaluation to a digar.

But back to the data. Of the 668 premium, handmade digars we rated last year, 237 (or 36 percent) scored 90 points or higher on our 100-point scale. This speaks to the elevated level of the digars being produced today by the members of the handmade digar industry. The quality of tobacco is very high, the blends they are drafting are superb, made with intriguing tobacco varietals. This high level of quality could be seen in 2016 as well, when 39 percent of the 637 digars rated that year scored 90 points or higher. The industry has responded to the high demands of digar consumers, who are more discerning and sophisticated today than they ever have been.

Which brings us to an even more focused category—the elite circle. Out of the 237 digars that scored 90 points or higher, 61 scored at least 92 points (see table, left), but only 19 digars scored 93 points or higher. This choice-cut segment of 19 digars represents the very best in digarmaking for 2017.

Only four cigars were able to reach the lofty height of 94 points, two of which are Nicaraguan and both from the same producer—Padrón. The Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series Toro Natural and the Padrón Serie 1926 No. 2 Natural are two of Padrón sauper premium brands and serve as emblematic examples of how great Nicaraguan tobacco can be. The 1964 line is named after the year that the late founder José Orlando Padrón started his cigar company, while the Serie 1926 is named for the year of his birth. If the 1964 Anniversary line leans sweet, the 1926 tends to lean strong and spicy. Both are complex in their own way, yet maintain the rich qualities that exemplify Padrón's house style. Consistency has always been a hallmark of Padrón as well. The Serie 1926 No. 2 was named Cigar Aricignapo's No. 2 cigar of 2017.

Also scoring 94 points, the Cuban Romeo y Julieta Short Churchill was one of the best cigars to come out of Havana last year. Habanos 5.A., Cuba's marketing and distribution arm, has made the Churchill a brand within a brand, as there are now four



different sizes in the Romeo line that bear some variety of the Churchill name. However the one of distinction is the Short Churchill, which was also named the No.19 cigar of 2017.

The Dominican Republic also produced an exceedingly fine 94-point cigar—the Arturo Fuente Don Carlos Eye of the Shark. It was the only Dominican cigar of 2017 to score 94 points and wound up as CIGAR ARICIGNADO'S Cigar of the Year. (A separate tasting is conducted for our Top 25, again with all the identifying cigar bands removed; those Top 25 taste test results are not included in this analysis.)

The Shark is exceedingly difficult to find, as are big Cuban Cohibas. The Cohiba Esplendido, a seven-inch-long, 47-ring-gauge smoke rolled in Havana, was the highest-scoring cigar in any regular CIGAR ARICIDINADD/Cigar Invider taste test. Its 95-point score made it the only smoke to achieve "classic" status on our 100-point scale, however, the big Cohiba failed to make the cut in the Top 25 special tasting, showing an issue of consistency in this particular cigar.

Poor weather and diminished tobacco crops in recent years were reasons that cigar lovers have had a difficult time finding certain Cuban cigars, including the Esplendido. Rarer still have been Cohiba Behikes, which are so scarce in world markets that we didn't rate a single one in all of 2017.

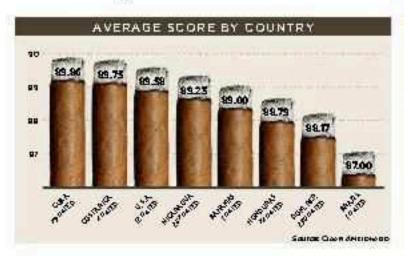
Nicaragua dominated the top scores of 2017. We rated 267 Nicaraguan digars in 2017-more digars than from any other country-and they scored an average of B9.23 points, second place among those countries with 10 or more cigar ratings in 2017. An impressive 41.2 percent of the Pricaraguan digars we rated scored 90 points or higher-110 cigars, far more than any other country. Ten of the 19 digars that scored 93 points or higher (53 percent) were rolled in Nicaragua, a testament to the growing infrastructure of the country and its position as a leading producer of high-quality premium cigars.

Nicaraguan companies such as

Padrón, Oliva, My Father, Drew Estate, Rocky Patel and A.J. Fernandez, among others, continue to release great brands into the premium market. More Nicaraguan digars on our Top 25 came from Nicaragua than from any other country. There were 12, including five in the Top 10 alone: the Padrón Serie 1926 No. 2, Oliva Serie V Belicoso, My Father The Judge, Guardian of the Farm Apollo Selección de Warped and the Plasencia Alma Fuerte Generación V. Until now, the Plasencia family has been known primarily as the largest grower of premium tobacco in Central America. Previous attempts to create a premium cigar had been lackluster at best, but the Plasencias kept at it until they finally made a great cigar—naturally, with their own tobacco.

Nicaragua is not only impressing with its quality of cigars, it has also become one of the largest producers of premium digars for the United States, nearly neck and neck with the Dominican Republic in terms of volume. Decades ago, Nicaragua wasn't even part of the conversation. At one point, even Jamaica, now a nonentity in the digar business, overshadowed Nicaragua. Today, its fertile growing regions have attracted some of the best digarmakers in the world and Nicaragua is in a truly enviable position.

Despite its crop problems and difficulties keeping humidors stocked with certain high-profile cigars, Cuba still scored the



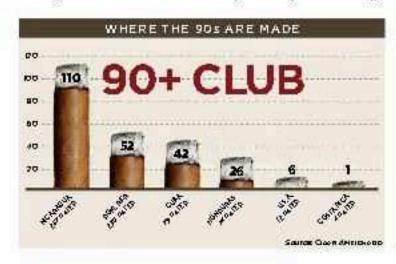




highest average of any country, 8986. We rated 79 Cuban cigars and 42 of them—53.2 percent—scored 90 points or higher. Among them were the Partagás Lusitania, which scored 93 points and wound up as the No. 11 on cigar the Top 25 list. Like the Cohiba Esplendido, Lusitanias weren't the easiest of cigars to find at retail, especially in Cuba, due to the large size and the fact that large wrapper leaf wasn't as abundant as in previous years. The most consistent Cuban we rated was the Bolivar Belicoso Fino, which scored 92 points. While it didn't initially score as high as the Cohiba or Partagás in our regular tastings, it excelled in our Top 25 tasting, maintaining consistency at a high level through multiple rounds. In the end it was named No. 4 Cigar of the Year.

Costa Rica had the second-highest average score by country (8975), but the small sample size—four digars—makes it difficult to give that average much statistical importance. The same holds true for the single digar we rated from the Bahamas, which scored 89 points.

Cigars rolled in the United States, however, had an average



rating of 89.58 points, just behind Cuba. We rated a dozen cigars rolled in the U.S. last year, and those high scores show the high quality of these smokes, such as the Tatuaje Cabinet Moellas (9t points, the only American cigar on the 2017 Top 25 list), Casa Fernandez Aganorsa Leaf Robusto (90 points) and the La Palina Collection Mr. Sam Corona (89 points). While the United States remains a smallish producer of handmade cigars, these ratings show how wonderful such cigars can be. Most are made in Miami or its surrounding areas.

We rated 74 Honduran digars last year, and they scored an average of BB.79 points. Twenty-six of them (35.1 percent) scored 90 points or higher. Honduras did producesome top-scoring digars in 2017, such as the Alec Bradley Tempus Natural Centuria, CLE Prieto and the Macanudo Inspirado Churchill, each of which appeared on CIGAR ARICIGNADO'S listo [Top 25 Cigars For 2017.

CICAR AFICIDAADO rated 230 Dominican cigars in 2017, more cigars from any nation other than Nicaragua. Dominican cigars averaged BB.17 points—lowest among the major producers—with 52 of those cigars scoring 90 points or better, or 22.7 percent. The No. 1 cigar of 2017 is Dominican, as are many Dominican cigars that rated 93 points—Villiger's La Flor de Ynclan, the Ashton Symmetry Belicoso and the Ashton Heritage Puro Sol Belicoso No. 2. Interestingly, more than half of the highest-scoring Dominican cigars from 2017 (there were 11 that rated 92 points or higher) were produced at one factory, Tabacalera A. Fuente y Cia., the factory owned and operated by the Fuente family—makers of the Cigar of the Year.

The single Brazilian cigar we rated scored 87 points. While Brazil certainly produces lots of high-quality tobacco—both Cuban-seed and native varietals—it's lacking in cigar production.

Regardless of country or tobacco blend, cigars are getting thicker and thicker. Churchills are larger, toros are heavier and 6 by 60s (also known as grandes) have moved from novelty to mainstream. Grandes—which we classify as any straight-sided cigar with a ring gauge of 60 or more—have becomes o prevalent we had to give them their own category in 2012. That being said, the grande size hasn't performed as well as others in our blind tastings. Grandes scored an average of 88.7 points.

The size format with the highest average rating last year was the panetela. We rated 15 of these slims mokes in 2017 and they turned in an average of 89.7 points. Panetelas are prized by connoisseurs for two reasons. Firstly, they represent the elegance of a bygone era. Secondly, the proportions alone ensure that the wrapper is the dominant flavor, not the blend. Panetelas are by no means top-sellers in cigar stores, but, judging by our numbers, will usually reward the smoker with a unique experience.



We are humbled and proud of 50 years of perserverance and success. There's no better way to celebrate the first five decades of the Nicaraguan cigar industry, than to recognize the people behind it all. **Gracias, Panchita.** 

Dr. Alejandro Martínez Cuerca Chanasara & Masser Masser Fábrica de Yabacus Jopa de Nicaragua, J.A. #JOYA50

@joyacigars

www.joyacigars.com

#### CIGARS BY THE NUMBERS



#### Size You Should Stop Ignoring: PANETELA

These skinny smokes are slow selers, but they re the unsuring heroes of the humidor scoring an average 897 goints.



#### King Of The 90s: NICARAGUA

An astounding 110 Nicaraguan digars scored In the 90s ast year more than any other country Ten scored 93 points or higher

#### Bang For Your Buck: HONDURAS

Cgars from this Central American country average \$8,98 before taxes \$1 essithan Hicaraguan smokes and nearly \$2 cheaper than organs from the Dominican Republic

#### Pricey, But Worth It: AMERICAN SMOKES

Cgars to ed in the U.S. don't come cheap (\$11.47) but they post some of the highest average scores by country, 89.58 points



#### Ghost In The Humidor: DOUBLE CORONA

A superbisize that side and angle popularity
We rated only five in 2017

#### Size To Skip: GRANDES

While immensely popular 6-by-60 cigars are among the owest-scoring smokes by size. To be (atalcoiona gordas) are better choices for those who is either cigars fat. They average 1.5 points higher

Figurados scored quite well, especially when you consider how many we rate. A figurado is a shaped cigar, so the category is immense, and includes to rpedos, belicosos, double-tapered Salomones, perfectos, any shape with a curve, taper or point. We rated 113 figurados last year, and they averaged 89.5 points—0.2 points lower than panetelas. If you look at the Top 25 cigars of 2017, the top four are all figurados. This is not a coincidence. Cigarmakers tend to task only their top rollers with creating these fine cigar specimens. Everything from shape to proportion to the precise placement of fillers is carefully considered. Your chances of getting a superb figurado are more than just merely good—they're almost assured.

The double corona size is getting more and more difficult to find, as is clear by the small number we tested—a mere five samples. They averaged well at 894 points, but with numbers so low, the double corona is frightfully close to extinction. Coronas aren't doing much better. Though the average was 89.1 points, we're only looking at a sample size of 28 digars for the entire year.

Corona gordas (also known as toros) are adifferent story. You'd be hard-pressed to find a digar brand that doesn't have a corona gorda or toro size of some sort in its line. It remains very popular, and we smoked 159 of them last year, more than any other size and 24 percent of our total. Given the high number, their 89-point average is quite impressive.

Cigars in the Churchill and miscellaneous categories tied with averages of BB.B points, while grandes fared a little worse at BB.7 points.

Two categories tied with an average of BB.5 points: lonsdales and robustos. It's no surprise that we rated only 27 lonsdales (another size that's fading), but robustos remain quite popular and the third-largest category at 112 digars. The 29 petit coronas of 2017 averaged BB4 points, only a hair behind. It's clear that thin is out and thick is in. The reason often cited for the popularity of thick digars is almost universal; perceived value, ergo more tobacco for the dollar.

When it comes to value, you're most likely to get the best bang for your buck if you buy Honduran. The average price for a Honduran cigar is \$8.98, cheaper than any other country (save for Brazil, which only had one cigar rating in 2017). Honduras might not be as hot as Nicaragua right now, but if you're watching your wallet, it's the smartest way to get the most out of your dollar.

It's become a common cliché of the day that \$10 is the socalled "sweet spot" for premium cigars. In other words, it's the price-point that most cigar manufacturers aim for in the U.S., as most consumers are willing to pay in the \$10 range for a good cigar. Both Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic have hit that spot, or at least that range. Nicaraguan cigars average \$10.04. Dominican cigars skew slightly higher, at \$10.85.

If you're a patriotic American, your love of country is going to cost you a bit more. Labor is naturally higher in the United States than it is in Central America or the Caribbean, and our averages reflect this reality. Cigars made in the U.S., most of which are produced in Miami, average \$11.47. They're still less expensive than Costa Rica, with an average of \$13.24, and far behind the Bahamas at \$20.75, which really has only one major producer of premium cigars, Graycliff.

CIGAR ARICIONADO has historically reported Cuban cigar prices in British pounds, a market that is more expensive than most (Switzerland and Cuba, For example) and cheaper than others (namely Canada). With an average of \$27.90 per cigar (converted from British pounds), Cuban cigars are not exactly for the bargain hunter, yet retailers of Cuban cigars don't seem to have any trouble selling their stock. Underscoring this fact was the release of the Cohiba Talisman Edición Limitada for 2017. In the U.K. it retails for around £80, or about \$111. According to reports, first shipments of the cigar sold out almost im mediately.

Amidst all this data, the predominant theme here is quality, and this shouldn't be too much of a shock. It's been said many times that premium digars are enjoying a goldenera right now. In this case, the cliche is correct and the numbers reflect this. Micaragua is clearly on the rise. It dominated our yearly tasting in sheer numbers alone and shined quite brilliantly in the top scores of 2017. But the best news of all is that the finest digars are not limited to one particular country or one particular price point. Once you put nationalistic pride and propaganda aside, the numbers make it clear that there is a great digar for almost everyone. �



## Can't Get Enough Cigar News?

Satisfy Your Insatiable Desire With Two Online Newsletters From the Editors of

aficionado





## A Seat On Cuba's Official Tasting Panel

Joining Cuba's cigar experts to evaluate blends for Havana's future cigars by Gordon MOTT



It's a job that any digar aficionado would envy, tasting new tobacco blends that could become the next Cohiba, Montecristo or other fine Cuban digar.

couldn't believe what I had just heard. A Tobacco Research Institute of ficial had just told me that Cuba's new blends are often reviewed by a highly selective panel of tasters from the topiex port factories and of ficials in the tobacco industry. "Really," I thought, "I've never heard of that panel!" Almost simultaneously I wondered, "Would they ever let me inside one of those meetings?"

I asked immediately if I could attend the panel's next gathering, explaining with more than a little hubris that if any outsider was qualified to taste digars, I might be that person. The people sitting in the room looked at each other, and I detected at least one roll of the eyes. "Who do you think you're kidding?" they seemed to say. It made sense. Why would the Cubans let a foreign journalist inside the castle gates to sit in on a virtually secret panel with the extraordinary power to judge and approve new digar blends? As well as anyone, I know that Habanos keeps its secrets about new digars as close to the vest as the nuclear launch codes.

However, no one said no.

That was 2016. For the next year, I kept politely inquiring about the panel, which is called the Comision Macional de Degustación, officially translated as the Mational Tasting Commission. Or, in English shorthand, a tasting panel. I asked people in Cuba if they had heard of the panel. While several said yes, including one man who had been to one meeting, just as many had no firsthand knowledge of its existence, even those inside the cigar industry. According to the scant details I was able to gather, the panel meets eight to to times a year, and not only addresses new blends, but from time to time, will test a factory's adherence to a particular brand's Rayor profile.

Then, out of the blue, I got an e-mail, inviting me to join the tasting panel's meeting on September 26, 2017. Between two hurricanes, and worries about the lingering damage from those storms, I almost canceled the trip. But on Tuesday the 26th I found myself sitting with more than 40 other people on the covered patio of the Four Ways Sheraton Hotel pool area in Havana. No restrictions. All on the record, I kept pinching

## This was not some randomly selected group of people who were pulled together. Each of the tables had tasters whose cumulative experience often exceeded 50 years.

myself as Luis Felipe Milanes, the director of quality control at Tabacuba, the tobacco growing arm of Cuba's cigar industry, explained that four cigars would be handed out, two different vitology or sizes, with two different blends each.

"These digars have been rolled within the past month," Milanes told the crowd as the first digar was passed out, a Magico vitola, 4 t/2 inches by 52 ring. It had been rolled at El Laguito, the home factory for Cohiba, Cuba's most iconic brand, and came out of a big, paper-wrapped bundle bearing a numeric code on a simple white band.

I pick up the cigar, It looks and feels like a Cohiba, the brownish wrapper with just a tinge of red is smooth and oily. In front of me, I have a tasting sheet that bears no resemblance to the tasting sheets we use at Cloar Aricianapa. There are no points, and there are six categories used to rate the digar: draw, aroma, Ravor, strength, burn and general quality. Each dategory has seven subcategories. For draw, the seven range from excessive to very insufficient. In aroma, Rayor, burn and general quality, the descriptors are excellent, very good, good, acceptable, regular, bad and very bad. Strength ranges from very mild to

Let's be clear. This was not some randomly selected group of people who were pulled together for that meeting. My table included Oscar Ricote, the

head of quality at Habanos 5.A., and Baldomera Beker Rivas, a grizzled, longtime Habanos employee who is the head of the committee for special digar projects. At some of the other tables were the former head of El Laguito, Arnaldo Ovalles, and the former head of the H. Upmann factory, Miguel Barzaga. Each of the factory tables had tasters whose cumulative experience of the factory tables had tasters whose cumulative experience of the panel for years, and it was always made up of real tobacco people who took this task seriously.

As the smoke flowed freely on the warm, humid Havana morning, I was in heaven. For the first half hour, we smoked the first of the two Magico blends. I judged it to have a firm draw, a wonderful aroma, good burn, very good flavor and slightly strong strength—overall a very good digar. Milanes encouraged the crowd to move on to the second blend after 30 minutes. I found the second blend to be firm as well, but a better digar than the first.

When the smoking ended after about an hour, the comments began. Tasters at each table stood and recited their impressions of the cigar. At one point, after a contrarian report on the strength, Milanes reminded everyone that all opinions were valuable and should be respected. Finally, after both blends had

been commented upon, Abdel Diaz, the roller from El Laguito who created the cigars for the commission's meeting, stood up and gave his own impressions, adding to a room full of chuckles "this is an excellent cigar."

There was a short break for a small sandwich and a cold soda. The panel's arbiters do not allow coffee, a real sacrifice for cigar-smoking, coffee-loving Cubans, because they believe it can alter tastes. Then it was time togo back for more testing.

The next two cigars were Sublimes (6 1/2 inches by

54 ring) rolled in the Partagás Factory in Havana. Once again, each digar was puffed for approximately 30 minutes of smoking time.

As the tasters stood to make their comments this time, they were asked about their backgrounds, and I got an idea of just how long these people had been working around cigars. Odelayne Paneque had been a taster for eight years, and a factory worker for 15 years. Barbaro Jova, a strapping well-built man, had been a taster for 16 years. Edith Sanchez, a Partagás employee, said she had been a taster for 22 years. Leonardo Agustin Alamo, another Partagas taster, summed up his Sublime by saying, "This is an elegant digar and it is stable from beginning to end."

The tasters earn a spot at these tables by a monthly rating process

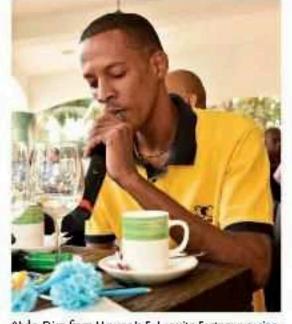
that judges how good a taster they are. The factory "team" for the commission tastings can change from meeting to meeting based on the internal competition to judge who is the best. On this particular day, the majority were women.

Milanes ended the session with a hint at the results. There was a broad consensus for one of the Sublime blends—the one that was a bit milder than the other—and for the second of the two Magico blends, which was medium in strength. "In both cases today, you have chosen the blend that we are looking for in these brands," he said.

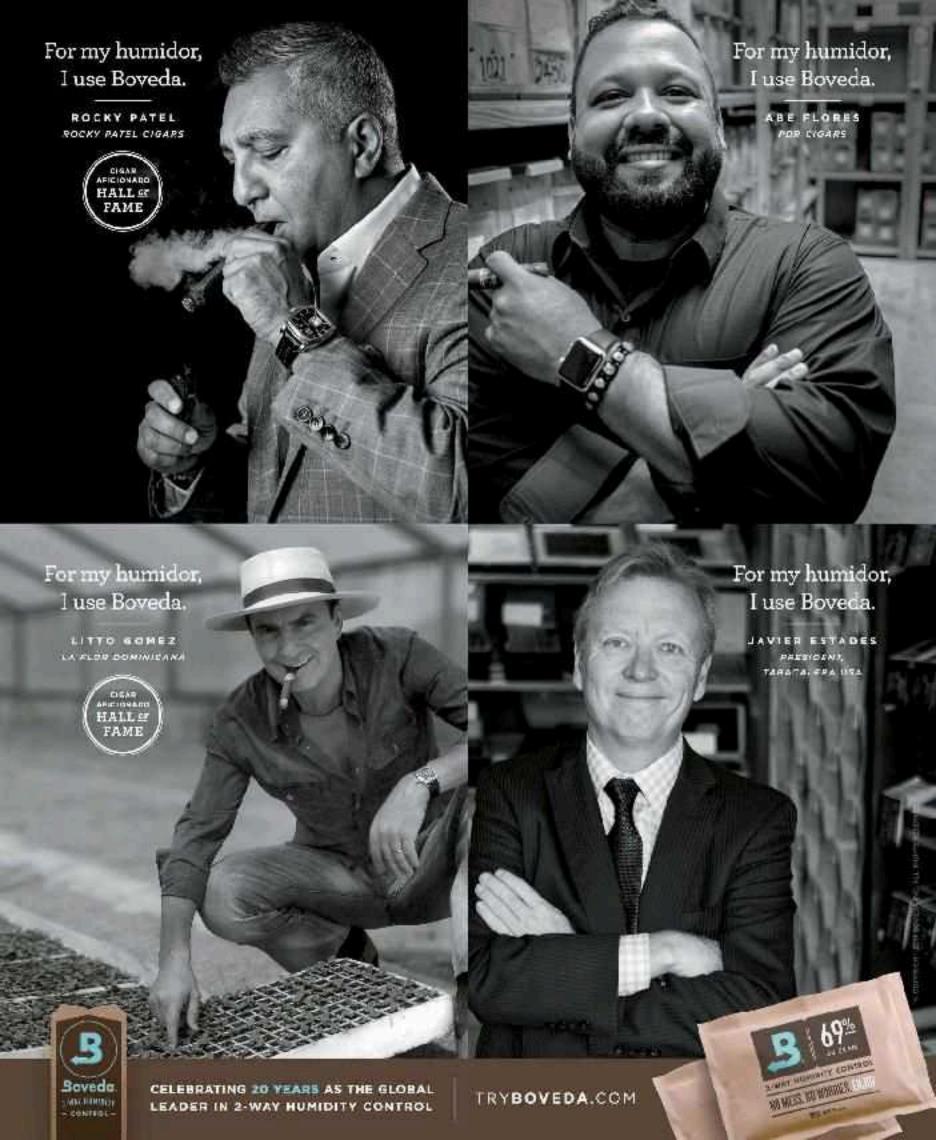
But he declined to tell the tasters—or this journalist which blend was destined for which brand.

The chatter over lunch focused on what these cigars could be. Everyone agreed the Magico was almost certainly for Cohiba, because it had been made at El Laguito, and a good percentage of all Cohibas are made there. But the Sublime had people guessing, because the Partagas Factory makes a number of different brands. In the end, the consensus was that because the blend was relatively mild, it was destined for a Hoyo de Monterrey.

Habanos promised me they would reveal the details of each digar after they are released in 2018. �



Abde Diaz from Havana's E Laguito Factory, wearing the Cohiba colors, comments on a test blend.



## moments to remember

Pezke vend z kulom kvank ia. Cost Aut aword Mamerik ia Remember Wardwide Pizzz 825 Eighih Avenue, gold Faar New Yart. NY roorg Oriem z i hemila, mamerik aremember⊗ mikhanten cam. Talarderizdd ran z caplek af Cost Aut awora car. i 800 gyz op6g



Parer Bevacqual CEO of the PCA Rudoigh WilG viain former mayor of New York City Cook Air displaced rousing but their Markin R. Shanten, and Eric Trumpires of at Old Paim Go (Club in Paim Beach Garden's Forda



During an evening of delicipul food camarader eland fine handro ledicipars. Evan Darine Land Aaron Roch delebrate 20 years of friends hip while lighting up at The Red Mear Lover's Cubiof Seven Bridges in Deliay Beach iF orda.



On the thirt annual guys to pilibry in Margedani. Brendon Remezas Louis. Richardson and Tommy Schulman sample the ocal fare by pulling on Cuban ogais and enjoying the armosphere at the Savaroga Hotel in Havana.



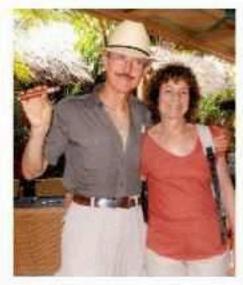
The Ransom biothers somethow how to commemorate a bishday from est Burch. Mite and Kenna bact relax and savora herasie of premiomic gars while basting in the somethine on Mite's birthday in Key West Forda.



Mark and Mari Harris share a digar momen with Randoigh Church lithe great grandson of condideas afficiented Si Winson Church last an event debtar ng the 25th anniversary of the Queen Mory's inaugural voyage.



Coad frends ring in the new year in graper fash on is giving but and pulling on Cuban Coh bus and groudly haveing a copy of Cose Air coused a layth. Anniversary is well the Squaw Valley St. Revolution Olympic Valley California.



In Cubi yau smate when yau dine Pau Pugi asmatesia Ramea a angside his wife Fa Waxmania Resiau ane La Ci allan Hayana



Meredith Yazwiat celebrares her zosi birihday by ighting og a gali of OposXic gars with her Carher Charles in Wilber Barre Pennsyvania



Graam Pelei Andrisan i ngsin his wedding day wah o gars a angside David Andrisan. William Wafi Kuri Gargu a Thamas Gargiu a Anrhany Wafiand Bran Burmin Waadbury. New York



New yeards Quinty Seale and Natial elbossey enjoy excellent Cuban Cohibaic gars at the Dundas Castellin South Queensferry Scotland



Michae and Amy Part vavor Rocty Pare v The Edge Habano o garvar their home on their wedding day in White Hail Mary and



WARNING: Cigars Are Not A Safe Alternative To Cigarettes. This Product Contains Chemicals Known To The State Of California To Cause Cancer And Birth Defects And Other Reproductive Harm.

# Every legend has a beginning

#13 Cigar of 2017 by aficionado



AXIS MUNDI





venturacigar.com VENTURN Karchetypecigars Øwenturacigar

which a travellative Sule of Category to consequent and both deads of other regroducionalmini. Foi monamiorari (migri (rowww.fi)) Winnigs.czype. WANNE Smoking eigers excess lung eurose, havel do asse, and serging seru, and ruy completels pagrancy.



On a recent ingria Greece, Casia Callas John Harza. Chris Silzis and Babby Silzis attentine ia ieux und enjay cumuruder e aver piem um hundmude ciguru in the vi uge af Agui Sarru



Rich Spany - Tam Cargo a and Feioz A - ghr up Ashian Symmetry and Fuence Fuence Opus X Angels Share og ars after an exculing day of watching Formula One racing in Montreal Canada



First Levienani John Clevener and First Levienani Melissa Clevener of the United States Army savar Cuban og ars and her wedding day ar the Diab a Cauntry Cubin Diab a Cairfain a



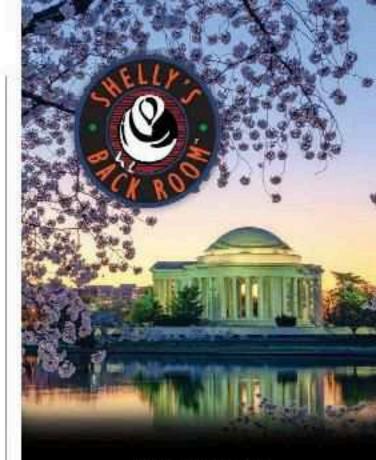
Bia heis and fe aw oga renihus asis Tim and B. Sanch savar premium smates crafted by Alec Bradley Oga is while pariating in a le surely game of girlin Newpork Beach. California



David La reaches his friends about the peasures of a gars by lighting up a round of Cuban Montest stat after enjoying a large meal in the dining room of his home in Taige City Tawan.



Scall Ashley commemoistes his wedding to Bittsny Van Zanten by ighting up La Ciora. Cubana Serie R Bactic gars while surrounded by Gendis and Camily in St. Michaels. Mary and



### A LEGEND AMONG LANDMARKS

A standard for cigar aficionados for over 20 years, Shelly's Back Room is a comfortable, yet still elegant, retreat in which to enjoy fine cigars and choose from a distinguished assortment of single malt and blended whiskies.

Lunch, dinner and late-night menus offer the perfect complement to your cigar smoking pleasure.

A new, state-of-the-art continuous fresh air system will make your visit to Washington's best cigar tavem even better!

Shelly's Back Room

1331 F. Street NW • Washington, D.C. 202.737.3003 • SHELLYSBACKROOM.COM









Frends ) on Rene and Jell Heyman cruse the Brish Isles in size by ighing. Barry and Christopher White spend some quality (ather and some over upicing a beard about the sun southed dect of Celebrity Cruses. Calebrity Silhoustic. and been and blantecristology is a Bravery Brewing in Lancaster. Calebrity Silhoustic.





Ogar overs and new yweds jett and jets ou Relsner have the rime of their ives celebraring their January wedding. They were married on the giet of the Hyari Key. West Resail and Spain Key West. Failds surrounded by your their clasest frends and family and continued the celebration into their ghis with great cigars.



B. Ceyde's smally bishday with Dave Clawriden. Tim Campbe. Jae Calenda. Aunitaire e Dean Freeman and Perer Warer in Victoria British Columbia



Nai hing camplements aday of gof and good friends better than a fine cigar Cary Baurquin and Marry Shearer ight up and he into in Merquire Nevada



Naie LaBarbera and Ryle Darny and David While ombie asinhie ighi ng opia few pemium o gars inside the Rocky Pare, Lounge at Virg. Avenue, Tobaccon strin Buffalo, New York



Mark Chapman, Jesse Nagy Andy Kurncz and Kari Nagyenjay breakfasi Ybari Ciry siy ewrih. Airuna Fuenie o garv and a café can leche ar King Carana. O garv and Cafe in Ybari Ciry Flarida.



Members of the Columbian Lodge of Freemasons in Boston, Massachusers ill ghrup oigars ar the Aleggo Shriners "Smoter" in Wilmington Massachusers to benefit Shriners Hospita's





Sieve center and Rache Mass light from Dana Paint California with their fresh bundles of cigars purchased directly from a robacco plantation in Cuba.



Lighting up a gars an safar fram eti. Pau Thumsuden Yufang Thumsuden and Sieve Pernana etas afrera day ni he Serenger white vicing Tanzan a Wica



On his wedding day Frant Burnash pulls and gars with Dan Frase Tyler Sweets Jelf Bieszte. Jasan Jaubian Jim Destacher and Jelf Sweets at The Innia St. Jahns in Pymawh Michigan.



Marton Davido Michael Brown and Brian Wong Yayor Cuban oigan after a day of diving in Cozumel Mexico



Hazem Ennah Di Haiham Ennah Raigh Sazia and Zef Per esh enjay fine cigais in de Zef swine ce ar an his hinday in Scandale. New York



Siepbrathers Sieve Benjam in and James Rivard bandlaver a pair of excellent Haya de Manterrey olgans with elorusing in Alasta abaard the Grand Princess

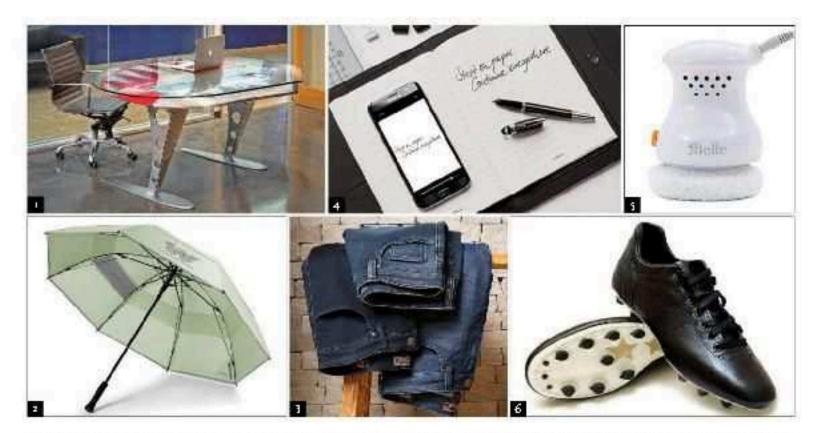
O GAR AR CIONADO (155N e 105 ) 7839 is published birmon bly by M. Shanton Communications, Inc., Worldwide Plans, 325 Sighth Avenue, 13rd Rook New York, NY 10019, [212] 1834-4224. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and a sadditional mailing officers. POSTMASTER, Address changes and subscription inquiries. CLGAR AR CIONADO, DO, Box 17767 Spore, IA 30037-0767, call I-300-7654929, or small organism-Ordebiul/fillment com. Subscription rates. United States, \$24.99 per year. Canada, \$26.00 per year, all other forming, \$56.00. Subscriptions are payable in U.S. funds. TO CRIDER A NEW SUBSCRIPTION, call I-300-761-4099, Uncolored manuscripts will not be required and no responsibility can be assumed for such material. All Turns to the Edward should be sent to the edward the shortest rates of the subscription. All rights

in forms and to GAR ASICIONADO oil for mend as uncorde unally suggest for publication and copyright purposes and subsets to GIGAR ASICIONADO's unmanded right notified under the GIGAR ASICIONADO's unmanded under the communications. Inc. All rights reserved. No hing may be right and or improduced in whole or in part or how only in primitives from the publisher. Copyright #2018 44. Shankim Communications inc. To self CIGAR ASICIONADO call. I 300-3440 fb.).





## made for you



In a word of fast food and one-size-fits-a sensibilities, how often does something fee made especially for you? The "Made for You" section celebrates those items that are created with such high quality of hand workmanship and degree of customization that they become individual to you. In each issue, our editors will endeavor to bring you special things from anywhere on the globe, choosing them solely on the basis of outstanding quality. Our goal is to give you guidance on the best of everything.

#### FLYING FURNITURE—MOTOART

In an age of standing dests, and hanging chairs, the new rage is form to rechain once activity road to the air. Moto An Form to read an idea on stavages gains from the red at granes, and fash one wings, cowings, fore ages, engine gains and ejection result, into dests, tables, beds, chairs, couches, even bus. The materials come from a garage of as at on his solving Reechcias Boeing. DC 6s and 8 yes, Every hing is consomicable and you can even star similar organization and planetogs come.

#### WHERE'S MY UMBRELLA—WEATHERMAN

When I cames to umble as you either buy quality for one as ing project on or you go cheap on the theory you have I anyway. Mereora og st. Rick Reichmuth didn't want to compromise and created a study umble a with Bluerooth technology to track I when I show a diddle with glass fiber to and shoot and Teffon fabric covering the Westherman resists with not up to 3) might and sends westher a entito your phone. Available as a color be (\$5) or stick umble as \$\$5) weathermonumber locom

#### I INGENIOUS JEANS-34 HERITAGE

While high fash an jeans complete any wardrobe the choice is of dening are naimally intended for the vender leaving larger mentwithing for y few options. Founder Aidle Blutaya realized this gain in mentional hing and created gain Herrage a line of refined jeans that wont discriminate against mentwith wast nest exceeding 32 inches lavely participant for minate and dignified fitting at the waste without four minate and for the antest finishes range from classic bises and indignition more ambitious clear we color parents. I minate his help buttery fee of cashinese or wood 34 heritoga complete.

#### AUGMENTED PAPER—MONTBLANC

Canundrum Yau wani iaja ni held gi a age and i ate advaniage of is many chaces in communicating your thoughts but you rest illenamined with the ill meters ted tradition of put ingineers a paper. So upon Month and material high quality withing instruments, has developed Augmented Paper a noteboot in which you write steech or draw with a Month and StatiWater pen onto actual paper while a digitation the eather enveloperation (ets) your scrawing to your mobile device turning your handwriting into print test month bordcom.

#### BUFFING UP—BELLECORE BABYBELLE

It is hard to get bull when your movices rebe with aches and pains after every workout. Professionals get regular massages. You can massage away the stress with Bellecore's barby Belle body buller a handheld device that loses random orbital oscillational factorials blood and yimpharic flow and speed up movice recovery. It prevents delayed once movice soreness by floshing act acid build up. The barby Bellecore complete in and partial factors to bellecore complete.

#### 6 WORLD CUP CLEATS-PANTOFOLA D'ORO

Just in time faith tiges to Ward Cupitavinsment Psiniafa ad Ota material vaccerfaatwest hat apened a paping thay in New York to SaHaid that affecting it insmetiate "gaiden's pper" cest. What that? Not expecting to pay in the glabs tigating event? You can to choose from a treed on affecting and each each and catus faatwest in utilisals esther. The tigrature Psiniafa ad Ota gaiden's piper tia to affect at a personal sed that in a trangelal calary and each erit pontafalodoro come.

ESTABLISHED INDA

## BenRiach

SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

CONVENTION TOLD US WE SHOULD EITHER MAKE PEATED OR UNPEATED SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY, WE IGNORED IT.



## UNCONVENTIONALLY SPEYSIDE

Choose to drink responsibly.

responsibility.org



## RARE FORM

THE FIRST EVER LS 500. LIVE IN THE NEW.





1.5007 DOF the attraction 12st got taken originary increasing and incharge of a trigger the expense and sed polar over all decrees 2 Perturbed polar process. 2 Perturbed polar process of an area of a second of a sec

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

stration No. 1147309 81	)	
TABACO, d.b.a.	x : :	
Petitioner,	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	
	Registration No. 1898 TABACO, d.b.a. Petitioner, Respondent.	x TABACO, d.b.a. :  Petitioner, : :

#### EXHIBIT 20

TO RESPONDENT GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE

# CIGATE COOD LIFE MAGAZINE FOR MEN Www.cigaraficionado.com

GOING FOR GREEN—WHO WILL WIN THE MASTERS?

80 CIGARS RATED

WILD FOR IRISH WHISKEY

WINNING BIG WITH SMALL CASINO GAMES

JOE MANGANIELLO RISING STAR



# Hennessy X.O





EACH DROP OF HENNESSY X.O IS AN ODYSSEY



SWEETNOTES

RISINO





















## When you remember life's important moments, you'll remember a Padrón.

For decades, Padrin amekers have alread with 18 the stories of apecial reconcerns to their layer described been destinguished by surplus our of our of our of sur-Statistic to oreate great eigens worthy of such special traces at our singular mution into these mements chared with family and freedly. The Padrin Family thanks you for your continued logarty and trust in the Padron name.

were padron seen



# contents

march/april 2018

#### up front

- 8 CIGAR HIGHUGHTS
- TE EDITORS NOTE
- letters to out of the Humidon
- the best of the good life guide.
  - 27 PLACES A HOBIGHISMS HEREE IN THE ISHE.
  - 2.4 ELECTRONICS Reconsider the carnonder.
  - 26 GOURMET Rad maple syrup isn't foreaps.
  - 29 WHEELS Indian Motorcycles: nostalgia gets an update...
  - 12. TIME The Roles that takes the checkened Rag.
  - §§ DRINK The mighty mescals.
  - ₹б SPORT РЖФgolfelubago to entremes.
  - 39 CIGARSIS Quesar the future of digar cutting?
  - 42 COLLECTING HOW MOWN SHOULD MESSEY,

#### features

contr. 46 SMOKING IDE

At six-foot-five and hard as a rock, use manganietic may seem built to play tough guys, but he also has an artistic side and a corned is fialr as well as a love of great digars.

golf 58 HANDICAPPING THE MASTERS

Augusta's scaless and heritage are great, but the players go to win the missourisigness jacket, we rate the top to best prospects. Plus, a look at the tournament's historical greats.

card 70 HYPER CHARGED
The ranks of street-legal hypercars are swelling with

rides that boast sleek physiques and promise speeds well in excess of 200 miles perhour. And its no hype.







DM THE COVER
Joe Mangan e a she hand
guyersh a ka ka' besa Phanaga sabed fa i Cons Rick a uppa by Panas Yang

## DOMINICAN BY BIRTH CUBAN

BY HERITAGE



SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Tobacco Smoke Increases The Risk Of Lung Cancer And Heart Disease, Even In Nonsmokers. Refael Node), heathque organ crafter and Head of Froduct Capability at Tabacalera USA, has created this cigar using the best Dominicar, Cuban seeds, grown in the world renowned Cibao Valley of the Dominican Republic

Nodel has reimagned the Cuben scul of Trindad, and the result, a Dominican pare full of character, complex flavor and unique aromas.

gá mbling 80 THE SMALL-GAME ARTIST

Eáála Teans makes a living playing addball

casinogames that other pros wouldn't touch—
and proves they re not all suckerbets.

apinits By THETOP O'THETRISH

The renerable whistery from the Old Sod is widening its horizons with a range of single malts, single potstills and grain whiskey to match analysis apputation for blands.

travel go A PRINCELY PLACE

Monaco may be among the world's smallest countries, but the mediterrone on principality packs a wallop with great food, diversions, scenary and million sines.

#### cigars

tasting 100 We rate 60 digars in sia sizes: Churchills (100), corons gorder (104), figurados (106), m Scellandous (106) and robustos (110) plus the Buying Guide (112) and Connotateurs Corner, our vintage digar tasting (115).

industry IT? THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We sliced and diced the state to fell you what
were the highest-rated digers of 2017, and
how they canked by origin, size and cost

cubs report 125 RATING HABANDS
Our intropid manin Hease finagles
a place at the table where cube blind
testes its latest blends, We dere you
to read it without being anvious.

T28 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER
Photos from our resders as they enjoy
themselves and their cigans.

Fig. MADE FOR YOU

Furniture made from plane parts; a lucury panifor the digital age; world-cup calibersoccerclests; an umbrella that danitget lost; the get-built massage; and denims that are litting for large men.



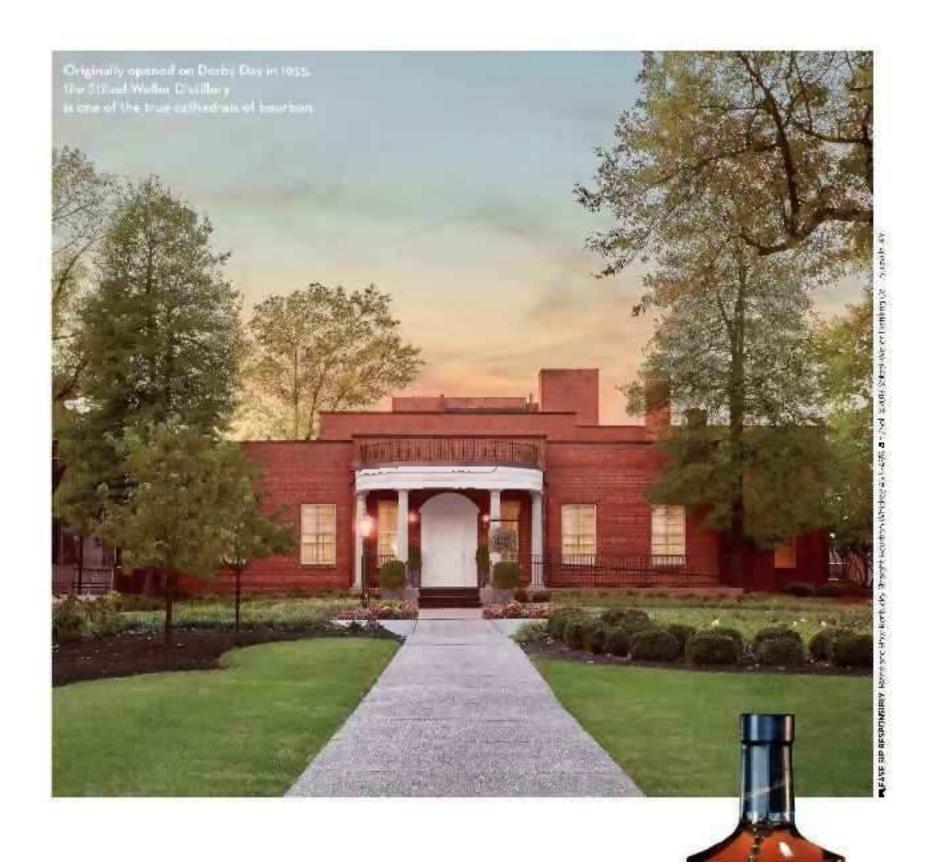




# highlights.

Searching for a great new organ? The new cases notice to for your. Our caseing pane decided 85 cm over in a wine range of casegories, from scately Churchins to deviand misce, aneous smokes, Things nine scored go points or higher, to cheers an opportunity to fine a misce of reasons the next time you in the your local biody and in over the policy.

	TOP CHURCHILL PUNCH AFTER DINNER This we see priced same he uses softwoods from three different countries in its beand, including one a wring y dark wrapper from Eccador.	HONDURAS	93
	TOP RICURADO ALEC BRADLEY BLACK MARKET ESTELÍ TORPEDO An extention of the origin) Plack Market from Honderes, the Este i iteration is no est in Niceregue using mosty Nicereguen sobrosso	NICARAGUA	93
SET I	TOP MISCELLANEOUS  LAST CALL BY A.J. FERNANDEZ CHIQUITAS  Originally object A.J. Fernandez's personal hierd, Last-Callumars  a sold in hiscardar Habana wrapper over Nicaregue n binder and ill en- from Fernandez's own forms.	NICARAGUA	93
R O NO. 2	TOP CORONA  ROMEO Y (ULIETA 1875 CEDRO DELUXE N.O., 2  Rolled marry with Daminious retectors and estrated in as associate techniques of each Cedro Deluxe mark in a curry, asomatic cedar a ceve.	DOM, REP	92
	TOP CORONA CORDA ASHTON VIRGIN SUN GROWN ROBUSTO Third essic Arheon ded with Cabe's H., trip mean Megnam 46 (Tubo) and the joyada Micaragua Antaho riggo-Gran Recensa Robusto Grande for sop bosons emong cosons gordas	DOM, REP.	92
	TOP ROBUSTO  LA AURORA ADM DOMINICANO ROBUSTO  The ADN Dominicano Robusto Lied with five other seroles using the rob  Cain Daysonaggo, Guardian of the Farm Rambo, La Aianza Materia Rob  San La Isao Requiem Maduro Robusto and Vigle Escartivo Michragua Ro	usia Seleda,	90
	BEST BUY CAIN DAY RONA 550 These se priced Cain Deptona 590, which is made by the Olive algar Carriy, relais for a mem \$6.00 before taxes, making it one of the top we set in this issue.	NICARAGUA	90



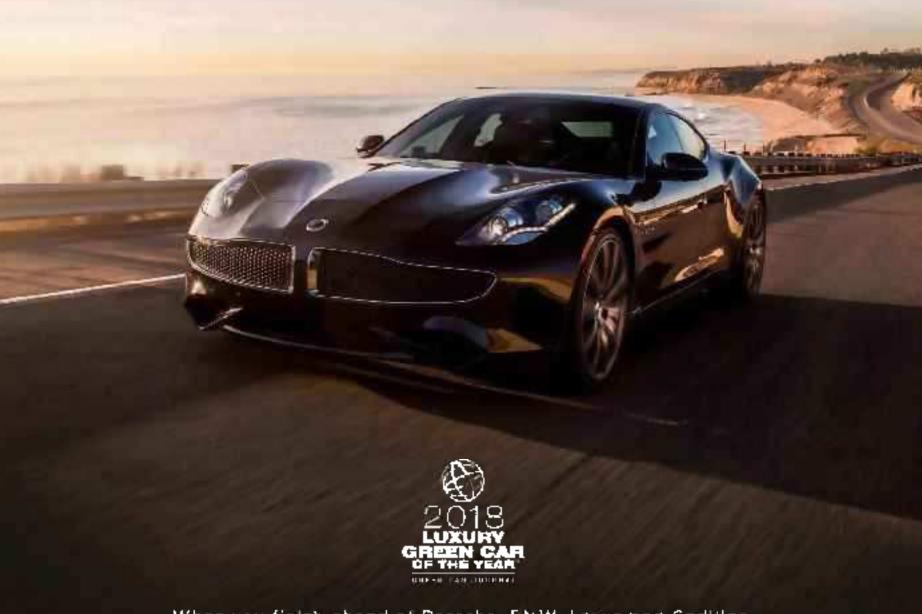
# FROM RARITY COMES QUALITY

Siede and Bow is a Kentucky Streight Bourboir Whiskey born of some of the picest and rarge, remaining about to be distilled here at the legendary Stated Wolfe. Distillery,

BLADEANGBOWWHISKEY.COM



# THE ALL NEW REVERO

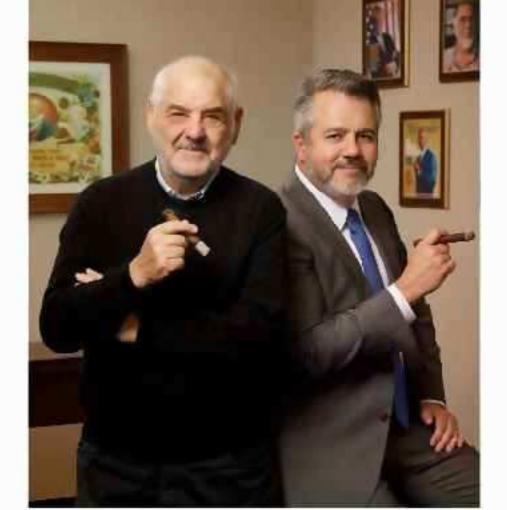


When you finish ahead of Porache, BMW. Lexus and Cadillas, there's only one thing to do.

Be proud.

KARMAAUTO MOTIVE. COM





## editors' note

## A New Look At Our Cigar Reviews

Terre roted algors for more than 25 years, and those reviews have looked virtually the same for that entire time. Not any more.

We are proud to present our new and improved tasting section: We've added a strength field to our tastings, so now every digarrating notionly indicates dimensions, price, blend, country of origin and score, but also the power of its body. There are five categories of strength; mild, mild to medium, medium, medium to full and full bodied.

We made the change to provide ratings that go beyond the score. If you smoke only easygoing algors, an 89-point, mild algor is probably a better fit for you than a peppery, full-bodied smoke that scores 94 points.

In addition to that change, we've replaced our magazine's testing index with a more richly detailed cigar suying ratide. There you'll find the top sooring cigars of the issue—regardless of country of origin—plus standout cigars grouped by power, as well as a list of the issue's best buys. We don't know anyone who doesn't like to find a great buy in the cigar world, and if there is one thing our taste tests have proven over the years it is that spending more on a digardoesn't guarantee you'd better product. We want you to find the best cigars—and you'll see that the best cigars aren't always the most temperative cigars.

we're sure you'll find this puying rouide a handy source of information on your next shopping trip. You'll find it on page 113.

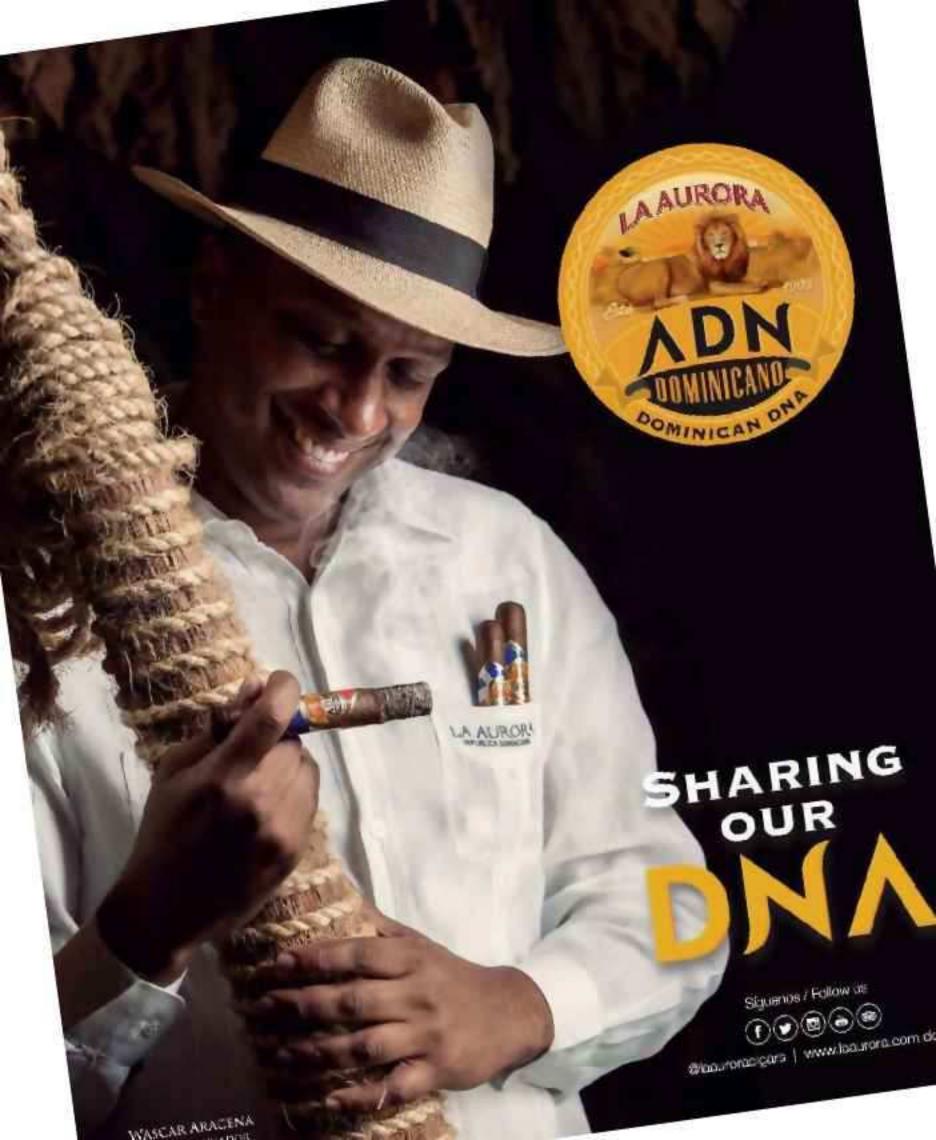
Our Conno isseurs Corner page, where we rate well aged, collectible digers, has a new look as well, hou'll find that on page 115.

The, we've thinds some changes, but we haven't changed our method of reviewing agains. Our testing coordinator shops at retail to buy the aigars we have (Yes, it temperates, but it guarantees that the aigars we have are like the aigars you buy, not charry-picked submissions.) He then gives them a code and replaces any brand labels with generic, numbered bands. The two of us and the rest of our tasting panel arroke the aigars blind, which means we don't know the brand name, price, country of origin or any other detail about the aigar.

That's the only way to legitimately rate a cigar, it's the only way we've ever do no it, and the only way we will ever do it. While some things may change, that's one thing that we'll rever change have at CICAR ARICHARDO in 250 sine.

MARTIN EL FRANCEN EDITOR EL PUBLISH EN

EXTID EXTENS EXECUTIVE EDIFOR



## out of the humidor

#### Dear Maryin.

i just finished meding your aditions noteentitled—shame on Apple" [Pebruary 2018] As a subscriber, I was shocked to see that Apple had banned your where to smoke applifrom the Apple Store:

search on the App 5 tore on the word "cigar" at least eight apps that promote the use of tobacco are swallable for download on the iPad, and at least five for the iPhone, 1 was even more surprised by the number of apps that promote the use of cannabis products. The last time 1 checked, the use of cannabis is illegal at the federal level. As you pointed out in your Editors' frote, cigars are legal on both the state and federal level.

It is a shaine that you were unsuccessful in applying moson in your dispute with Apple:

Apple's hypocrisy apparently knows no bounds, when you are the third-largest company in the unled States, it appears that you get to write your own rules, David Marcon.

Albany, Oregon

#### Dear Maryin.

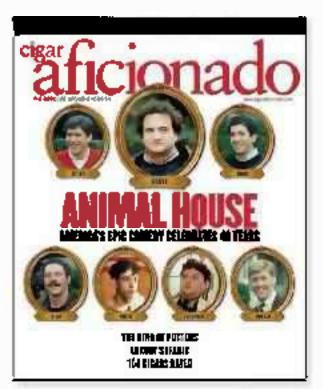
As prior correspondence of mine in years past is evidence, I have been a reader of Cross Amicionado since its first adicion. Although I must add, I really do feel that you have relegated covering digars and elegant mensmannand accessories to a publication about golfing and gambling, evidenced by your relegating the word "digar" to much smaller print in your publications banner.

hevertheless, with that said, I am absolutely outraged that apple would remove your very useful where to 5 molecapp!

I am not, nor shall I ever be, an apple customer as a result thereof and, moreover, I shall make this known to my friends and collecture.

I guess that Apple Torgot that one can easily access where to drink a beer, where to sip a scotch and where to find an escort.

Robert L. Gelwer Mew Kork, Mew York



"Your cover story on one of film's classic comedies, *Animal House*, had me laughing from the first paragraph."

—Stephen W. Starnes St., Philadelphia

#### **⊏4**аР МаРиін,

Your cover story on one of Film's classic comedies, national Lampoors Arienal House [The House That Roared," Petruary 2018] had me laughing from the first paragraph, not only is the movie worth our laughter, but it also opened the door for the multitude of great comedies. It pleases all those who cherish the memories of when and where we were when we first laughed at Others suggested and Ratios collegiste romance, and Brother Blutarsky's classic counsel to pledge Flounday, Tray advice to you is to start drinking heavily.

However, I need to point out one factual error in the anticle, incorrectly referencing Chris millians from hity at Dartmouth. Chris is a member of the Alpha Delta Phil



Property and a state of \$1.5. A part assert of hit Sharing Commercial was the Worder-by Place. 2015 Eg. M. Jaronne, Now Fork, NY 19001 5. Hi/Miggitt La Miffleffet e-m. Ellem@egamic endo com MOL. 26 MO. 3

Editor & Publisher MARYIN RUSHLANKEN

Language Ed on a DAVID SANORA SEA OF FERGINE ED TO FACK ETTTE IDC C ர்க்கோ கேர ACRUS T HOM POOR COCCOSAL MOTTOLIA SPACKED MY Accesso lider ARREST BACT DAVID CLOSECU

Art was lideo(Groving Good and r AM HUM ED TO C THUS BROKECH

> Sea or concrete inglished in I control worth Concrete using £4 cons PROCES OF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF COMPUTE CONTROL OF CONT MICHAEL MARCH, EXPENDINGENT, 1974 HUMAN

PROAD Editor CAKE OND 1000M G 3 AMESCARA TODG MILLER USA A UPIE CUIUA ложна О и и выс жособ. DEH #ME C HEADY THE Desgrar OMBA WIFKOWS Productions Deligner Anti-Runt Photo Editor KARINIA MACCIO

Makager Cigar Mic deadlocan inc. Fred use on riscosusce Hew Med a Discourant Digital Head at Top Cove piper

ARRESTS BACK MICORA LIOR JUNEAU HUNGER AND EXTENS DESIGNATED

Senory of evendent ad Sules and Senices : V co Presidenç/Associate Publisher. Corrorate advect inc. Di novor Boverage Alaba Advents ng Senornomen Halager New Between I megated Hanes ago ween? Senorhopus Dispos Wes Core WOODING MINNESS MAKE COSKS Zoechara Advent cag Er oc

Michael Adventione States Decret Adventione States

Arabea Co FAduento eg Espo Administration and the second second second ndve sic ngrEpecia i Projesso Craphic Designer SE PEACE-FIRE

> Vice Precident Cucacias Modici AGREE HAZSEN OK MANBET Now Media Coordinator

> > Descript for his priv DOMESTIC AND ADDRESS OF 開拓性 Propress

Senorifice Pasiders Surre-EMMAND ARCOLD Senor Events Manager forest Manager Sea or vice ives dear inspectaguind Circustion. Senor Creux on Cresor

AN HUNC CALKON MINER? Senortes See: Decor Best Account Manager ENGAGE BLU MAKE NE BLU MANNE C

V on Cito assum Sen avada-sonto tre CM ALLIN Senory of Piet dem Senor V as Pas ders Senory of Piet dem. Chaffinanca Officer Wice PARK deat. Base near Development.
Wice PARK deat. Production

Account to the City assure

CONSTANCE MCC INVEXV LAPRY ATRAUS MINNA MORCES STEPS U CHALL MCCO IN PICE DARKET ILLUAN KENT IN JOHN BOS MARCO E PORAM CHIMILERIE RAULA-00-CHININ C THEELO MORNEON COME LLAVE MEMA SESAR FARSTER CHIEFTY HE AM DESCON STEVE BLIMAN

DOS CATTESTAL CHRESTI HA CHHASSESLA HE MARY CHARGOS

BACK BOTAL AND COUR

THE ITER MICHELLA

CHRESTIE MARIND

U CHALLESTO PERMAPO CONTRAC MMANTHA-LATING CLIMALITH DAVE BOULANCED EDICIONEURC

UPBA PITTER BARD BELLING AN INCOME. UNICHMAN CHARGE AF BURNER Market ZAN DE PHPLICIA I DECTA THE RELEASE IN COLUMN 1 LEARNIE MOLEY CHECK FILESER MZ MOFF

MARVIN E TIMES CO MICHAELE BONIA MILL MARKETON CONSTANCE MCC RYES UPBA PITTER BARD Market ZAN DE STEVER COPODE A DOOR CAN ARREST PROFE MARKETAN CHEERA DELLARZO

Questions about you make out on? Ca. 800():654;559. ўнамилікаўня вы шалыныў ў Іш/34-стіў

Protection, Bot Aligha Delta Chil. A Di-Chilis actually a sorority founded at UCLA in 1935. Alpha Celta. Phil Christ and my framenity, was founded by 19th. century philosopher Samuel Eelis in 1833 at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York:

As an alumnus and emeritus president of the  $A_{i-1}$ plia Delta Phi ansemational, a wanted to earnest the error and command you for the celebratory article: Brother miller is one of many in our fraternity's history whose post-college career exemplifies. Alpha Dalta Phile longstanding Herrary hardings. Stephen W. Starnes Sc.

President Emeritus The Alpha Gelsa Phi Imerpasional Philadelphia, Personal Vascia

#### Dear Maryin,

Your editorial sidened me. It put the final touch on wanting to rid reysalf of Apple and go to Androld, which I did yesterday. Apple has brainwashed. Americans for years to actually even have idioss. sleeping outside stores just to be the first ones to buy. the newest version. Apple was smart enough to manufacture every version, every size, every color, esc, and idiot Americans fell for it all. On top of that, they've had the most security issues over the past. tions years! than a ver before:

Not this guy, I'm done with Apple, and so should avery eigeranso kerout there.

**Току Сана**йі

TAIR HEREN'S CONCRETE HOUR

#### Dear Maryin,

Thank you for producing one of the only magazines. that I look forward to. I was disappointed to hear. that Apple blocked the Where To Smoke app. The gioring hypocrisy concerning the availability of marijuana apps is frustrating, but California is Applies homeland, so I can't really feign disbelle [...

However, there is a work around: on your Apple. device, in Sofari, go to wespigoraficionado.com: Once there, this can be saved to your home screen, creating a direct link, it even has a default icon of your"cigar guy."

54d0 LdW/i4

Барів Rosa, California

#### Dear Markin.

I could not agree more with you reditorial in the last Croan Amaio naco ("Shame on Apple,") Apple5 decialon, if it connects classified as ridiculous, is at least contradictory with its equal rights concepts. A company that supports race equality, freedom of seaual preferences and the use of spirits and drugs. li ka ma rijuana is ba ing hypos dideal et the mi ni mum ...

The argument that smoking damages health is unacceptable in Apple's case, and certainly reflects.



the personal preferences of Mr. Cook. Perhaps he should be spending his distance which hing the company that he russ, since it is already behind many-others that have not only caught up to Apple but are also leading the market.

This kind of decision (and this is certainly my case) stimulates consumers so eathlink their position relating to such a prejudiced company.

viadimir Racavsky. São Paulo, Brazil

#### Cear Markin,

I found Applies decision to drop your where the smalle appliappalling. I'm someone who has never used tobacco products and never will, but tobacco is a legal product that should at least be held to the same rights as manipuma;

As a nonsmober, why would i subscribe to Crowk Amoion Aco? You consistently have very good content and it's an interesting read, this is use lesse is yet another fire a sample, with the place on saferis and the long-form Amimal House feature. Keep on smokin it.

Herner ville, (Urio

"I found Apple's decision to drop your Where to Smoke app appalling."

-Rob Nance, Westerville, Ohio

#### Cear Marking

Jam's elgars maker and a believer in the First Amendment. I don't own an iPhone. But your editors are wrong when they state that elgar smokers. First Amendment rights are being denied by Apple. Those rights are guaranteed to us by the Constitution and prevent the government from trampling on them; Private individuals and companies can deny free speech to others with mistive immunity and the First Amendment is not yielded.

Just as Croax Amountain can print whatever it likes, Apple can sell wholever apps it chooses and bon whichever apps it doesn't like. Pirst Amendment not withstanding.

Kerry Jaan igomery Portfand, Oregon

#### Cear Markin,

Twe bean a reader of Circus America Accisince the Rist Issue. One of my favorite sections is the Connoisseur's Corner that explores some of the best examples ever produced. Most, if not all, of the smokes reviewed are selections from the Holy Grail achelon of algain. Itsure would be nice to see what they look like.

Randy Venter Eccloicas, California

Editors Response i We've hever photographed the cigare for that section due to their age, and the fact that we some times have only one, but this is a great idea. We have found a way to those you some of the cigars in that particular section—and they look great. Turn to page 115 to see the new and in proved Connolment's Corner.

#### Dear Maryin,

As someone who has been in magazine publishing for more than 2d years, I can appreciate all that you have accomplished. I know how much work goes on behind the scenes to create a great magazine. But in your case, you succeeded beyond your wildest dreams. Congressiations on not only a job well done, but on creating an incredible magazine.

I find like a newbie to algars, having started only in 2000 when a friend who was celebrating the birth of his granddaughter gave me a Romao y Juliata. I thanked him and than set it on my desk wondering what to do with it. You see I had purchased a box of E.I. Productor when my first daughter was born more than a decade earlier and they made me turn green. So I wasn't exactly a digar fan. But a week later my friend was at the house for a party to I decided togive it a by. I was in shock. It'd never had a good cigar.

The next day I went down to my local sobacconist and asked for a mild digar. He sold me four Don Tomas. It was a great start, it sook me two years to finally find the digar of my dreams.—Patron naturals, 1964s and 1986s. I have been a loyal Patron smoker ever since (so I am doubly saddened so read of José Oriendo Patron's recent death). I'm always gratified to see your editors agree with my taste (or more accurately, I agree with theirs!) having made Patron "Cigar of the Year" three times—note than any other brand. Your editors opinions assured me I made the right choice. That is what a great magazine is supposed to do—guide your readers in the right direction.

I picked up my first copy of Circae Apicromano back when Herringway was on the cover [July/August 1999]. We look alike and the clerk asked me if that was me on the cover. So I was reading you long before I ever fall in love with algars. Its systa for about your magazine when the quality of your publication attracts readers who aren't even smokers (yet). I'm also a novelist and you've inspired me to include Padrón algars in my novels.

I have been a longitime subscriber and fair, and thought after reading your 20th anniversary edition 1 had to let you and your readers know that from one publishing professional to the other, you and your crew have created a truly magnificent magazine.

Editor in Chief, Leeders' Edge Magazine. Fædericksburg, Firginia

#### Dear Marvin,

First of all 1 would like to tell you how much 1 enjoy reading your magazine. Is to read to mad it when I was a student in London.

A few years ago I found a box of Partagis that belonged to my grandps, who had pessed a way, we seen as I opened the box the aroma came right to my face and I was transported back with my grandpa in his private library. Much of who I am nowedays is thanks to him, and having a digar is like being able to be with him again.

Marzio Mari Ahrens Golfenburg, Sweden

Correction: The table on page 57 of the 180/Feb issue lined the wrong country of origin for the Rocky Parel Vistage 2003 Comercon Churchill. The cigar is made in Mooduras, not Micaragua. +

# N IN LOS AL<mark>fos</mark> de Jalisco TEQUILA IOO% AGAVE

ON RESPONSABLIDAD DIINN RESPON<mark>BILLY 62017 CAZADDRIES TRICH TRADE DRICCES AND THE DEEP KR DZOMETH FRITEGIII 4 CAZADDRIPRI RIA REAL BEACH CA TEMBUR FACH—18% A. C. RYNYY</mark>



Serie V MELANIO CRAN RESERVA LIMITADA

The Standard, in Oliva Excellence

The Oliva family has a long and producing some of the promises which producing some of the forest premium cigars

The Uliva Serie V but of eights are the finest the family has produced to date and are benefited as some of the most sought after to the eight model.

#1 Cigar of the Taficionado Year

Find us on Social Media @Ohra Cigar

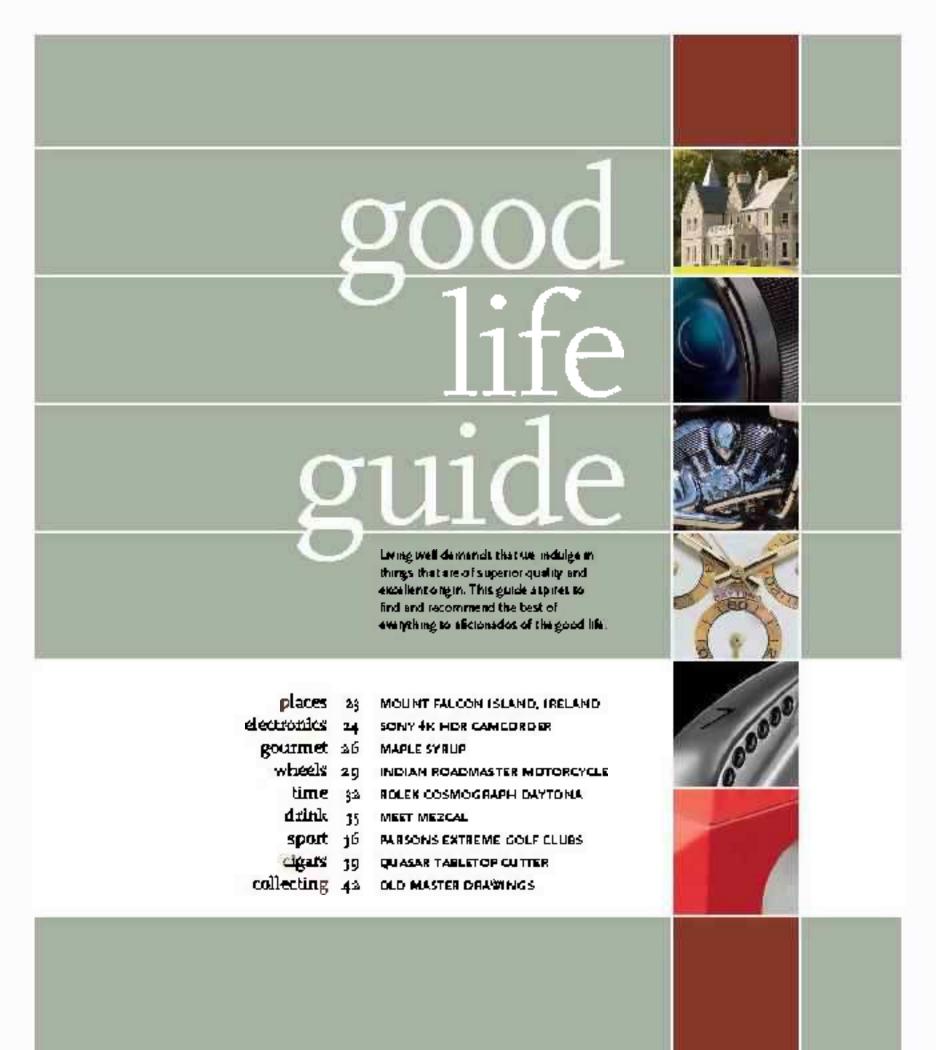


www.olivacigar.com

Otra Cign Co. 1018

















## Mount Falcon Island, Ireland

espite conting to the Mount Paloon Estate resort to escape. the rigors of the Tour, Tigar Woods and Mark Officers were anything but subdued once they sat down to dinner. Bornly as dng, they vigorously deboard the "pound for pound " fighting prowess of Atlantic salmon compared with 5 teelhead trout,

An idvitio 190-acre enclava closa to wastern trefandisarrane. River May legendary for angling the Palcon was the ideal historic. manor house to side such fervent banten. A bandrial, woodenbeamed structure once used primarily as a nobleman's "country." pursules" refuge, the Falcon provides guests with two milles of private fishing on both banks of the Moy, falconry, a golf driving range, a louisge stocked with-Cuban algars and a dower cham pion : shipgolf courses within a one-hound rive of the property.

tte hand nottoge tosught up in the thrillo fthe Estate, woods and O'Meara were in high spirits as they left the farm-to-table. The Kitchen Corden Restouront, woods jumped onto O'Mearos shoulders, and acting like two young boys, they frolicked outside. the 32-room country house, the bling down the  $oldsymbol{a}_{i}$  paralye for  $oldsymbol{n}_{i}$ 

"Woods, John Cook, Scott, McCarron, Nick Paido, U2 band. members, Joe Billen, they we all come here to switch off their. minds, to have fun in this relatively undiscovered part of Ireland," explication Falconia Author Alon Malonay, "Here jewal links courses are half the price of famous southwest (Irish) courses, and our hoving spoosalmon in the May is exceptional.

Situated in a woodlands flecked with walking trails near the rugged ocean cliffs slong the wild astish to way, this countryside. haven is only a UV, hour diri¥e from Shannon Airport⊚

Once known as The Castle, one of the grantler fishing and shooting lodges in Ireland, the £676-built Palconstill honors that noble history by parenering guests with luxury lodges, two spacious sultas, and a variety of rejuvenating, highly fulfilling octivities. You can walk with a hawk on a gloved first through the estate's owl-studded woodlands or wander the the restaurant's three-same genders, with its array of purple separague, automatos, edible Rawers and beobless. A tour offers insights into the farm? to-table phenomenon, and is the perfect prelude to dining smidthe nooks and crannies of The Castle's original kitchen.

The Falcon also provides suprame golf. If tangling with gusty winds, tall sea grates and fear-inducing carries over diffs is your ides of pleasure, you'll love to play have. On the beachside, Rosses. Point Silgo is dotted with reised greens, burns, towering dunes and anguilling's unbers. Carna is baset by raging winds. Ennisceans affords sweeping views of the ocean.

Yet relief is never for here. The the repeating and and ar-meter indoor heated pool is one sort of cure-all. The intimate, woodenbeamed Boothole Bar, entirened by typical arish good cheer, offers its own elinies. In this peaceful, fire place-glowing sanctuary, premium whickeys and montechistos punctuate a day's explorations, allowing imaginations to soar majestically and unfectared like a falcon.

Visit mountfalcon com

— Edinard Kierek



sybalitis diesa your video comers cought up with your television monitor. You could have been excused in the HID/LOBOR THE APS If your camers was flat, rectangular, and capable of making phone calls. But if you want to take advantage of the contemporary art -display age, capturing landscapes or shooting in the absence of natural light, the hole-punch size lens on your sworth hone will always pale in comparison to what you can do with a camporder, Happily, the new age of user-inlendly carricorders does not entail corrying a huge box on your shoulder. or any gook like technical proficiency.

with its sleek appearance, you mighter't recognize Sony's PDR-AX700 4K HDR (\$1,900) as a relative of the camera you. corned before the smartphone revolution, two rdoes it perform like it. Its 4K resolution upgrades the oldgold standard of £080p with ranked the also unit of placts, micking it easier than ever for an ateurs to shoot professional grade video, 1f you're thinking your iPhone, Sanssung Galbay or Google Piali aiready shoots in ext, remember that the Sony 4K HDR facilitates those placts with a land, professional-grade cansors and image processors that are simply too large to fit inside of cell phones and smaller cameras.

The 29m is Zeits lans copumes luminous high-dynomic-ronge video. It's primarily a wide angle lens, ideal for filming landscapes, бых сна 12 к ор боан соона обов манаскі і ку, ай ом і гд усы во сарвина.

fair sway subjects without apprilicing quality. The image sensor, which captures light through the lens and transforms it into a digital image, is the same as the one-inch-corps sensor that so hy uses in some of its professional-grade 4 idea cameras. The image processor, which converts read ato into a format that can be stored on a memory card, is the Bionz X florrowed from the company's MOSTAL HARMAN DISLIN GENERAL CHARMAN.

But don't let these professional-grade space scare you. The operation of the Sony 4H HOR is essentially point and shoot; Choose between one of the four built-in neutral density filters, press record, and the corners will handle averything also, stewers has a built-in HDM1 port, so you can view your footage by plugging it directly into the selevision.

An ideal camers for travel, the Sony 4K HDR is compact and designed for handheld use, It also factures two SD slots to record across two different memory cards without interruption.

Should shooting in true 4K inspire you to step up your film making game, some advanced options will assist in your post: production and the comporder also has a manual setting that provides an easy way of learning the ins and outs of aperture and a hutter speed, who telse could the building spielberg ask for?

Visitsony.com/electronics/camcorders/

-Blake awards

# THE FIRST SINGLE MALT SCOTCH FINISHED IN INDIA PALE ALE CASKS



to create our newest whisky we first had to brew our own craft beer just to season our American oak nasks

This is the first release in the G enfiddich Experimental Series, designed to push boundaries and create the unexpected.

SASSAM personal Action rescuratory statistics stress has south 45 kg. sex actions stroughpointing or instructional stress, for new year ex-

## Maple Syrup

cateporkling-vine is not thompogne, and most "paneake syrup" is not maple syrup. Maple syrup comes only from the sap of sugar mople trees, and like kangaroos or gorillas, Mother hature saw fit to make these endemic solely to one part of one continent, northeatern North America, most famously Werm ont but also the rest of frew England, frew York and Quabac, with some overflow into the Midwest and  $\mathbf{m}$  id  $\mathbf{x}$  don do  $_{0}$ 

It takes 40 years for maple trees to mature into commercial. sop producers, and unlike sticky tree substances, sugar mapie sop is clear and thin, like water, it takes 40-45 gallons of sap to  ${\sf pro}_2$ duce a single gallon of syrup. This is done by boiling sap in shallow pans until most water has evaporated ; Nothling is added, and the entire process is devoted to reducing the purely natural product to its best and most essential ingredients; By law, maple syrup is: just that, but be wory of plays on words like "maple Rayoned" or "100 percent natural maple product."

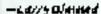
Confission offses over the range of colors and grades. All real maple syrup is high quality and has nearly the same density, clarity and sugar consent (66.9-68.9 percent). It is graded solely by its only r, which depends on when the syrup is made. Most producdon occurs in lose winter and early apring but as trees warm up the syrup becomes darker. A taste difference occurs, and like many rad wines, flavor becomes stronger, richer or folgger" as the color darkens. For years, the industry confused buyers with an sees na four-tile ned grading system from Forcy to Grade A. Medium Amber to Grade A Cark Amber and finally Grade 8, but this suggests on inherent difference in quality, which simply is not the

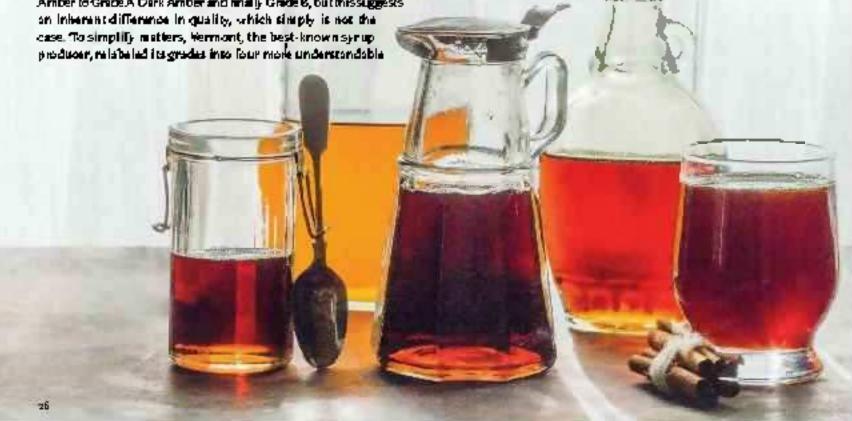
is well regolden Color with Delizons Flavor, Amber Color with Rich Playor; Dark Color with Robust Playor; and Yery Dark with Strong. Florer, the 2015 the USIDA generally adopted Vermonts standards. for the entire nation, defining all four grades as Grade A by color: Golden, Amber, Dark and very Dark, You may still see products. labeled with a parenthetical:[[formerly known ax.].).

Generally, lighter syrup is ideal for delicate foods, like ide cream on yegunt, the disrless is good for cooking and sauces or as a molasses substitute, while the middle grades are perfect for maple syrup's best-known use, over pancakes and wallies.

th another writible, governet producers are now making high-quality flavored variants with real maple syrup. The bestknown is vermont's Runamok Propie, which taps only certified organic trees—they have 61,000 on the slopes of the state's highest peak mount represented. They make tregular toy rup and a collection of smoked, infused and barrel-aged products, so distinctive Oprah svinfrey named a mixed selection one of her "favorite things of 2016," Runamok produces nearly a dozen varietias, including sourbon, Rum and Rya Barrel Aged, Pacan Wood Smoked, Hibisous Flower or Cardamorn Infused, and the wildly popular Cinnamon + Yanilla Influed.

Visit runemak maple.com







# BORNIN SCOTLAND WITH AN AMERICAN ACCENT.

#### $\supset$ OUR LATEST EXPRESSION $_{\mathbb{S}}$

pays tribute to American whiskey's contribution to single met Scotch and the American oak hourbon barrels that have shaped the flavor of Scotch whisky for generations.

It is matured 14 years in bourbon heritage barrels and then finished in new American oak barrels from Kelvin Cooperage in Kentucky... The resulting whisky combines the smooth, fruit-filled complexity of Speyside with the bold vanilla punch and caramel richness of Kentucky.

U.S. EXCLUSIVE

CERTIFIED KOSHER

# BRICK HOUSE

Handmade in Niearagua

BY J.C. NEWWAN CIGAR CO.

Introducing the new Brick House Double Connecticut. A highly

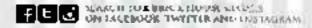
acclaimed Nicaraguan Blend featuring a genuine Connecticut Shade wrapper and Connecticut Broadleaf binder.

An American rates while staying mue to its roots, an incredible flavor at a great price.

WWW BRICKHOUSECIGARS COM









### Indian Roadmaster

ong ago, my late father placed me between his kneed on an Indian motorcycle, engaged its infamous so-called suicide facturals, and took me down the road in a happy mist of rumbling, thunderous, vibrating glee, I was four, the bike was a post-more war it model, my old man was wearing a grin and his suistor goggles, and I was in love:

such images—whimsical conjurings, maily—casch your images nation, your exections, your longings, and put you in a place you'd far rather bethan where you are (like your dask at work). They are personal choices that run a gamut from horse riding out on the open plains, to rock climbing in monument valley, piloting a glider over the Pacific coast, or—in my case—riding a motorcycle dawn near anywhere.

Recently, I reconciled my nostalgia with the present day by test driving a blue that links the two, the Indian Roadmaster, a glearning, jet-black, chrome-accented, nearly 1,000-pound, 1,811 oc (111 ou in) metallic land yacht that comes loaded with accessories (\$20,009).

Founded in 1901, Indian has long symbolised the dream of the open-road—even since the original Springfield, Massachusetts, manufacturar shuttand in 1953 and the name sturribled along from owner to owner, some of whom simply rebranded their imports. The company's most recent—and promising—incorrection builds a

Rest of all make and issue in John that had to the total lateness of lesoriginal design, but bring the **bloss** up to date.

Fittingly, 2 visited trennis Bolduc's 2 adian Motorcycle of Springfield to ride the newset Indian.

Dannis—a waiting, talking, gargorious ancyclopedia and collector of all things Indian—gave me a backroack vowe, and set me free, and while the here to sell you that visions of rech climbing here crossed my mind, that Roadmatter Rew like a glider and handled like the best-trained outding horse you've ever seen. Despite its weight, it handled far better than the 700-pound blie I'm riding these days. A tall these it feltilies a great pair of skils on a perfectly groomed slope. Wherever I leaned, it went—responsive, likely, hugely powerful, and—when pushed here and there—the tiniest bit skittish, but just enough to beep me aware and appreciative.

Throw in heated sees and handles, crystal clean audio, cruise control for those open roads, and a large-screen GPS package with all the expected nuts and bolts—intuitively placed and easily manipulated—and you'vegot an idea of how much the Indian has evolved, and how well its matured from that first ride, now over 60 years ago...

is sures out that quite a few things improve with age. Visit indiana otorcycle com

-A $^{2}$  $^{1}$ A $^{2}$  $^{3}$ A $^{4}$  $^{3}$  $^{4$ 





# good life guide



# Rolex Cosmograph Daytona

sk any driver here what they 're looking for, and it's one of these,"says the champion receased river scott Pruets showing off one of the Rolen watches he owns as a multiple without of the Rolen 24 Hours at Daytons, "As great as trophies are, there is nothing quite as special as this."

The watch he means is the Roles Cosmograph Daytona. Launched in 1963, the Cosmograph Daytona was designed to be a high-precision timing tool for endurance racing that measures intervals within one-eighth of a second and has a tachymetric scale for calculating averages peeds. Now it is awarded to without of the race, which Roles first sponsored in 1993.

Fruettatthis year's race. He retired after his 25th entrance in the race this year's race. He retired after his 25th entrance in the race this year (also the 25th anniversary of Roles's sponsorship). Pruettishares the record for five victories in the famed endurance race with racing legend murley may wood and has quite a few watches to show for it.

Role: has a for-reaching legacy at Daytona International Speedway, a cathedral of motorsport, heat to the track in the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, you can see Sir Malcoins Campbell's Blue Bird V, which Campbell piloted on the hard-packadoquin saands of Daytona Beach to claim the world speed

record in 1939. The 38-foot, 2,300 horsepower machine hit more than 380 mph as Campball avaraged 276.816 mph, while wasning a Rolen Dyster. The run established Daytona as the place where drivers do see to "houl ass," in the words of Pruess.

The most famous Roles Daytons was worn by Paul frewman, better known as an actor, but skilled enough to win less class at the 1995 24 Hours of Daytons at the age of 70. He acquired the watch, however, in 1999 as a gift from less wife, actors Joanna Woodward, at a time when his enthusiasm for rading was dawning. The inscription read over confirm over the manner was confumphotographed wearing the watch, with its creamy dist and black sub-counters (known as a panda dist) that the highly covered model was dubbed The Paul free man. His personal Daytona, a present to his daughter malls boylifiend James Cox in the early 1990s, recently fell under the hammer for \$15.5 million (\$17.6 million including feet) at a Phillips auction in new york last october, an aching the record for the most expensive wristwatch eversoid.

Less storted versions of the winners watch can be had for \$16,900 [the rereientry-level watch is \$13,400]. Unlike Pruetts, the back of yours won't be engraved with the word Twinner.

Misit role n.com

- Lawrie Kalife

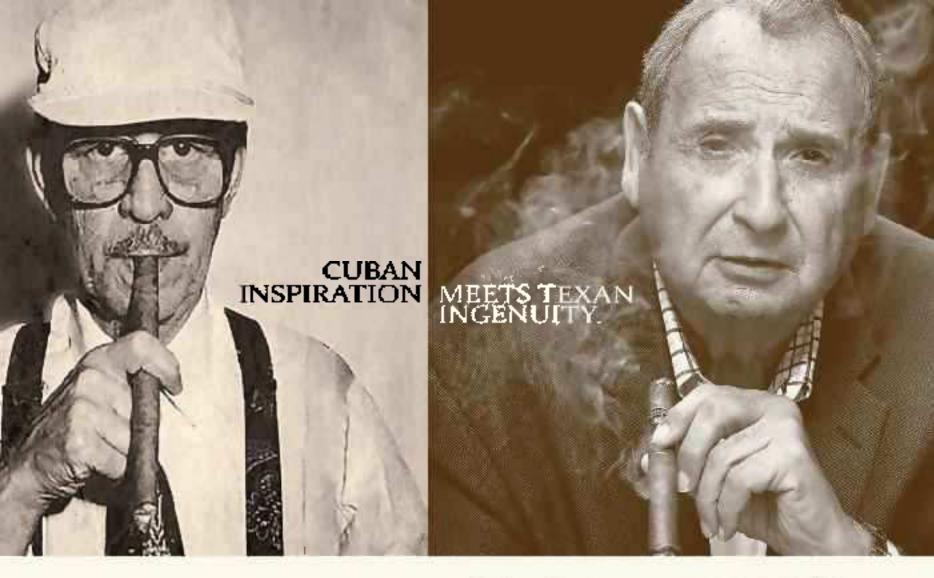
# COMPLEXITY WRAPPED BOLDNESS



SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Cigar Smoking Can Cause Cancers Of The Mouth And Throat, Even If You Do Not Inhale. FIND MORE BOLDNESS & COMPLEXITY AT:

romeoyjulietacigars.com

@ @romeoyjulieta\_asa



Micallef Cigars, handcrofted by the Gómez Sünchez fumily

Migallef Cigars is as alliance between two great families - the Micallef family. whose conveying control point to quality has general at successful business. veniures wouldhelde, and the Cohan-hom Grimer Shigher Jamily, who have been handoutling award withing, expertly blended digara since 1934.

807.598.5331. @MicalleiCigans 🗗 🖼





Excellence in Islanding and Indeedness – it's a family tradition. Learn more about our legacy and our 'sture at MicallefCigars.com.





A cross section of our cigar portfolio.



### Meet Mezcal

liese your eyes and take a sip of a good mescal and your might envision the bucolic scene from which it springs, much horse slowly traces circles around a mill, pulling the stone wheat that grinds the row research linto juice. Airborne yeast farments the liquid in wooden rats before a wood-fueled potstill distills it.

Once derided as a grade coustin of Tequilla, messal is gaining respect and fans through the artisenal traditions that give it its apky and smoky character. Understanding and tasting messalare the keys to appreciating it. Pirst forget the worm. You'll not encounterone in any fisted have, mest, know that while Tequilla has stricter production regulations (it is limited mainly to the state of Jalisco and made out of nothing but blue agave), messal, which can be made in nine Mexican states, takes advantage of the option to use any of about 30 agaves pecies, tappadin is well known in the U.S. Tobala is the most common of the wild agaves.

Marcol uses some of the same age designations as Tequila.

Jover (sometimes called blance) is Unaged. Reposado indicates two to nine months in wood, and color is matured at least a year. Many purists, however, reject aging as they prefer to taste the against charms unadorned by wood.

After years of importing industrial mescal, the U.S. is now privy to artisanal products. The latest is from George Clooney's Cossimilgos (80 proof, 560), with pronounced fruits like peach and barrana Chichicapa (93 protof, \$70), part of Cel Maguey's Single village collection, sweeks of mint, altrus, selt and ask, so whre (90 proof, \$45) is a slightly smoky Joven, which delivers bright citrus, m int and bread dough Rayors. Depends miskes o'blonds in the state. of Pueble that is fermented from tobal agains and quite fruity. with a mint and toffer (94 proof, 585). The Kino Sabe jown combinessteamed and roasted again to produce a bright profile with s weetness, lemon and tax (86 proof, 540). Cooked in an autodisve instead of oven roasted, Zignum Aflejo lacks the smoke of the other wascale, but at the months is smooth and sugary with vanilla-(60 proof, \$50). Creyente (60 proof, \$60) blands mescal from two regions for a mesty, perpery taste. Hegal Arejo (ED proof, SEED). shows chocolate, fruits and leather, Montelobos (66.4 proof, \$40). achieves a good balance between smoke and spicy jois ye so.

In his comprehensive book Finding Mezcal (Ten Speed Press, \$30), Del Maguey founder Ron Cooper lists 40 cocktails made with mezcal, but a good cigar also makes a great mixer.

- Jack Bellridge





# PXG Golf Clubs

nyone who would name his company Parsons Extreme
Golf, or PKG, isn't going to be subtle. And Bob Parsons
belleves has gone to the extreme to create the finesticists
money can buy —quite a lot of money—say \$5,000.

After founding the Intermet dont sin-name giant Gooddy [Parsons sold most of the company for GoZillions in 2011) he got hooked on golf. Soon Parsons was spending \$100,000 a year on golf clubs and decided to make his own, from sia years later, Parsons Exterme Golf turns out distinctive fooking clubs that are custom-fitted through distinctive golf facilities scross the United States and, he says, 30 countries around the globe, Parsons, who renders the final verdiction every club his designers come up with, knows who his audience is.

"We look at PXG as a luaury brand rather than a golf club brand," says Parsons. "We don't believe we compare with most golf club-companies that catento the entire market: We don't go to the PGA show in Orlando, we don't sell through discounters or big bos stores because we believe that its not our customer. That's resincting the integrity and persons of the brand. Our clubs have to be eye-opening performers."

Parsons from have a longed appearance, but the longive ness of cavity-backed clubs because a cavity is hidden inside the head. The head has a perimeter of shallow ports that allow for custom balance. The face of the irons is super-thin with a thermoplastic effection of behind it to prevent cave-ins and anhance feet.

"Our wadges are the only ones that are too percent milled," says Parsons. "Mre use a machine that cuts each wedge out of an te-pound block of seed. The milling process takes four and a half hours for each wedge. Our grooves conform to U SGA requirement, but they are very precise, very close to what the limit is. The design is very appealing to the eye." Or ivers and fairway metals are complex and weighted to square the clubface at impact. Of course, he makes putters, 12 different models.

Parsons also wants you to have an "Experience." For \$17,500, "The Experience" lets you spend three days at the Scottsdale mational Golf Club (which Parsons owns) being Road for clubs and playing three rounds of golf. Two nights at the Four Seasons Resort, some mask and other amenicles are included. Then thereis the "Ultimate Experience." For \$100,000, younget a four-day club fitting and playing experience for two people with private sin transportation from anywhere in the United States.

Tour probably Horschaf, a winner of the ATENT Byron Nelson this season, plays and endorses PXG clubs, speaks of the Bob Parsons affect, "Bob wants to build the best product possible and use the latest, best materials to do that," says Horschef, "So he built clubs that cost a for more than the others out there, but they also perform really well. I think, even to his surprise, he found a market for them bigger than what he expected."

Visit pag.com

—Je∭William<del>u</del>



IT'S NICE TO BE

# WANTED

"If you're going to be wanted for something, be wanted for something great."

-- Correlius Bailey, AKA Straight Shooter

That's exactly what Cornelius Bailey set out to do five generations ago. And he's been wanted for growing the finest tobacco ever since.

#### CORNELIUS

If you're looking to nab a notoriously great rigar, your just reward awaits.

SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Cigars Are Not A Safe Alternative To Cigarettec.



MAKE IT COUNT

Cornelius And Anthony.com

Touch be forgiven if you missook Colibris newest autor for something that may have broken off of Blom's Musk's Falcon Heavy rocket during its historic space found in Pebruary. With a cosmic name and sharp, protructing angles that are reminiscent of a children between of a stay, the Quasar certainly appears like it could be a futuristic object that fell from the heavens. The Quasar is not built for space travel, but instead is a two-in-one cigar cutter built for your tabletop. And it just happens to be one of the best on the market.

The Quasar tabletop cutter (\$130) is the newest in Collibri's Quasar series, which includes an astrony and limited edition humidor. The line's hallmark is the pyramidal motif that's carried throughout it drew inspiration from the shapely Hearst building in flew York City as well as the hobinal pattern on Collibria molecule lighter from the 1950s. Elegant, yet masculine, classic but also futuristic, the Quasar cutter commonds the eyes attention, but the real beauty of the device is what's housed inside its cuboid shape.

Built from solid metal and weighing shout one pound and five ourses, the Quasar features two stainless-steel cutters to anip your smokes. When you push down on the Quasars top, four-oiled pistons pop up and reveal the unit's cutting blades in unison. On one side of the cube is a double-guillotine cutter capable of swiftly snipping digars up to 70 ring gauge. If you prefer a wedge cut, or cattery, opposite the straight blades is a V-cutter option that can handle smokes up to 60 ring gauge.

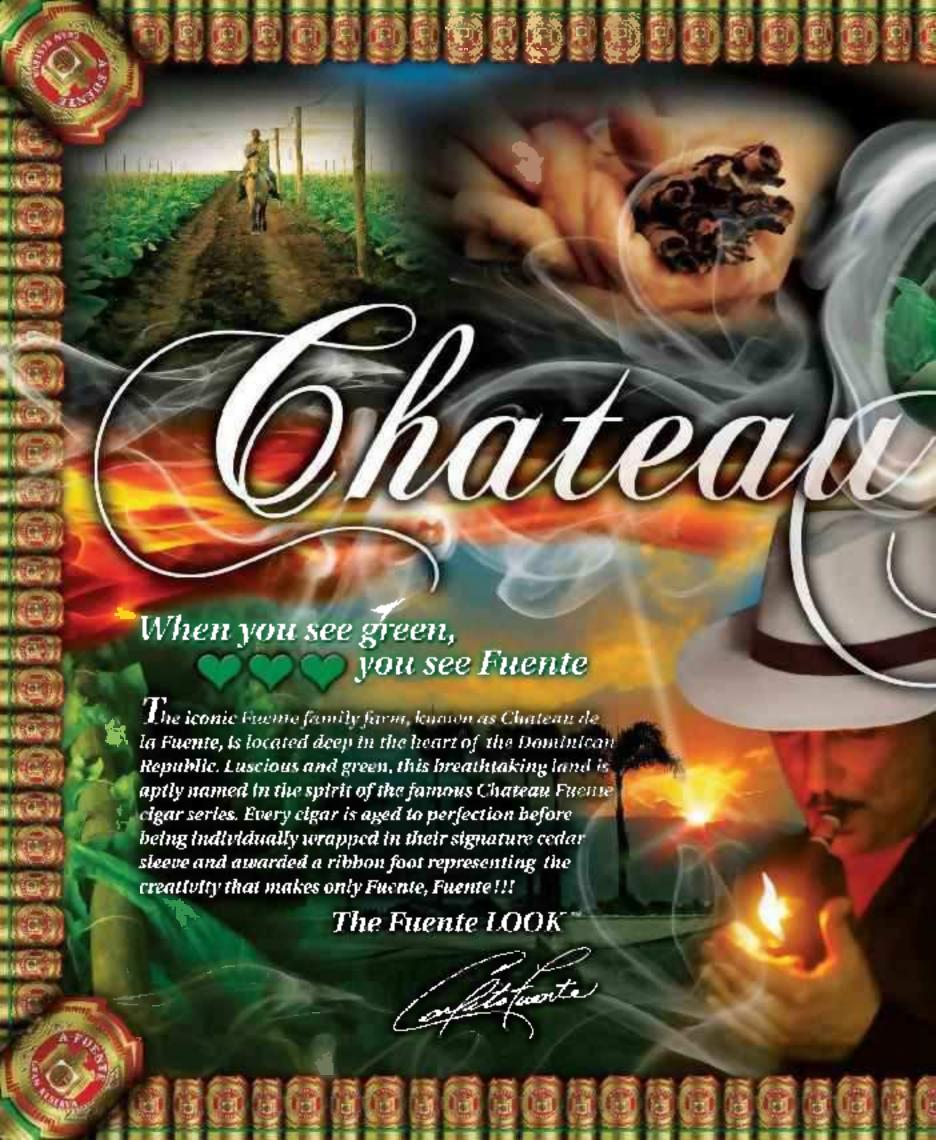
The oiled pistons ensure that the dutting action is amough, and both blades are more than capable of easily dutting digars of all shapes, from figurados to parejos. The dippings collect in an inner chamber, which is accessed and emptied via a trist day on the bottom of the unit. Additionally, a rubber gasket on the bottom of the Quasarpresentation on slipping order aging your desktop.

while the Quasardoesn too me in space-suit white, it is evailable in black, red, gun metal and all ver.

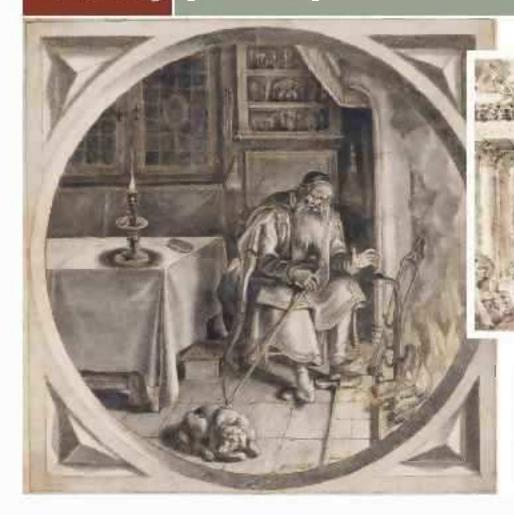
Visit oo libri.com

— поблем падуу









#### thousand bucks. The artist may be best known for his colorful fresces in cathedrals and palaces that feature. pully clouds and howeving puzzi-winged charubs-but the image 1 purchased is so mewhat more, um, accessible. are part of a series of drawings, many of which maide in the Metropolitan Museum's prestigious Robert Lehman Collection. The suction catalogue discreatly described it as "Carlcuture Of A Man Seen From Behind." That's code for a fellow relieving himself on the side-rails.

These days, art galleries and auction houses display their works online, giving you the ability to soom in and study every. detail of a drawing before deciding whather to make a bid. Their own experts also scour areally routzions for overlooked treasures. and you can, too. Value depends not only on the fame of the artist, but also the condition of the work. After all, they rejust ink or pendil on paper—very old paper.

Tree! They to do reser the outsion house," says Lobbouries. "The experts are always willing to talk to you and will have a better understanding of the History

While future financial return is a possibility, the best advice always is to TBuy things you like to live with; Lobbowics advises:

> And then there's the bragging rights. Piestsois 1955 painting cer Femmesd'# feer fetched \$179.4 m il -Hon se-Christiers in 2015, Butsome of his drawlings cango for less than you'd pay for a vintage watch and impress your friends and neighborseven more. The middle back the investment on my drawing in the pleasure it gives may and it won't lie, it's also fun to tell visitors, Those a Tlancko."

Visit sothebys.com

-Religh Gerénez J.C.

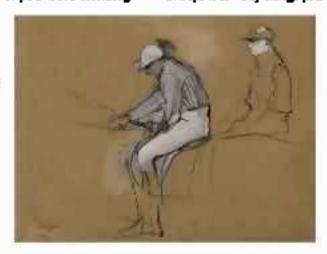
# Old Master Drawings

sybe you can't afford the \$450 million that a Leonardo da Vinci oil painting recently fetched at auction, But If you've willing to set your sights a little lower many drawings by Old Muster painters are well within reach.

Thou can get a drawing for a fraction of the price but its at it. the work of the same genius," says Elisabeth Lobkowics, an Old. master pointings specialist at Sothebys, "We have drawlings from \$1,000 to \$1 million." She adds that drawings—smaller and more intimose than paintings - let you feel as if you were standing

alongs de the artist, looking at the same. scene, as he worked, whether a particular drawing is a study for an embitious. pointing—a.g. michelangelor: Sistine Chapel ceiling—or something that simply captured the ortist's eye at oldistant. moment, it "is the handwriting of the artist," Lobbowicz espiaira. It could be Rembrandt as he knocked off a Dutch. landecope, Or Olovanni Baltileta Tiepolo as he sketched street life scenes in 16th-Cameury Vanica.

I know because I bought a Tiepolo at suction a faw years back for a couple of











GLEDCIGARS 📓 💆

Joe Manganiello made his mark by sculpting his body, but the cigar-loving actor has dreams of succeeding on the other side of the camera

10

BY MARSHALL FINE
PORTRAITS BY PETER YANG
STUDGE OF MARSHALL FOR TRANSPORTED TO THE PARTY OF THE



ce Manganiello releass in a chair by a large card table in a appayrling basement red room in his Beverly Hills home, right next to the man care where he been his humidon

Manganiello, who has been talking about his digar collection, looks up and smiles when his wife, actress Sofia Vergare, poles her head into the room. Vergare, as breath takingly striking in person as she is onscreen, returns his smile as she says, Twould anyone like something to drink?

After a housekeeper brings the beverages, Manganiel Io [pronounced MAN G-uh-nello) is keep an owent to recall the first time he understood that fine tobacco required a more sophisticated approach than he'd known.

"It was probably after I started "True Blood," the Pittsburgh notive says, taking a slip of his water. "There was a digar bar on Sunset Boulevard next to the Sunset Towers. They had a great back patio, where a used to go all the time to mad scripts or have meetings or just meet friends, I just stumbled upon it—and they had cubors, you can get false Cubans a lot of places, but they had the real thing. A couple of the guys there had watched "True

Blood and knew who I was, so they opened up the wall safe and pulled out a bunch of Cohibas. I smoked those with them and bept coming back.

In particip, the sizefcot-five marganish is imposingly welcoming, towering but warm. Though here drawed assually in black jeans and a long-sleeve, steel-colored Henley shirt, he can't disguise the powerful build underneath. While gray has begun to dominate his beard, the salt-and-papper facial hair belies an otherwise youthful face; a hawkish profile that features a strong ohin, aquiling note and eyes which can harden-onscreen to the Clint-like squint of aseriously sough guy or soften to reveal the funny.

emotionally attured human within. He has the lanky looseness of an athlete, someone who has learned how to live in that large frame, and a boyish enthusiasm that takes over when he talks about digars.

"I probably started collecting seriously—with a really good humidor—in 2012 or 2013," he says. There's some debate about which is my oldest [cigar], but 1 have an '05-'06 Partagas that's probably it," he says. He has a dwindling stask of special cuban Cohiba cigars reserved for dignitaries as diplomatic gifts "with the seal of Castro," he says. They he powerful. These cigars will put you on your ass—they be real elephant legs. We smoked a couple when my brother had his first baby. They he for special occasions. I've got five and once they be gone, they be gone."

The room where mangements is self-humidomest des resembles a glassed-in medie rai dining room, complete with a banquet table and chains. On the wall is a realistic-looking diagons head—Mangement is a big fantasy fan.

Here also a fan of digars that are fat and powerful. It like a bigger ring gauge, and I like a strong digar," he says. He has a special affinity for Partagas digars, which he explains as he takes out one rolled in 2008. TMy favorite—these are delicious, he says. "And I have a drawer of Daniel Marshall for everyday. They he a little more affordable."

Cigars play a role when Manganiello acts. "When you're on the set, you have down time—when they re changing the camera or setting the lights," he says. "So I will start a cigar, When they're mady for ma, I put it calds. And when I'm done with the scene, I light up and keep going while they set up for the next one."

At age 41, manganiello has had ample opportunity to light up on set, appearing in two hit Magic Mike films and having a four-season run as a hearthnob were wolf on MBOB. True Blood." On April 30, he will appear in the big-budget, action-fantisty Rampager, opposite Owayne Johnson. He also dipped his too into the OCE Hended Universe as super-villain Deathstroke, popping up in the role at the call and of the and less of 2017 a Juntaly League. Manganiello will get a more extended shot at the character when he plays opposite Ben A flack in the upcoming The Batanan.

It's telling which aspect of playing Deathstrokegets him talking; "I have to wear a wask, and thereis a mail style and sechnique to that," he says, "Mask-work is something I haven't done since I

wasat⊂amegie Mellon.T

Yes, Manganie IIo is a bit of a theater nerd. Or just a plain nerd, period. Thereis a lot more to the man then just his muscles.

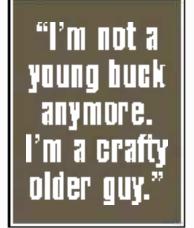
Tits the meat surprising as ject about Joe;"
says Brad Peyton, who directed Manganiello as an ultra-cough marcanary in Rampage. Tim a giant nerd, a proud video-gamer who loves things like Durgaons & Dragons. And Joe is the same way—in the body of a six-foot-five muscle-bound hum an being."

"Joe is not all brawn by any means," says secon Adam Rodrigues, who became friends with Marganiello on the set of Magic Mille. "He's a really intelligency up. 3 think here an artist in the

body of an athlete..And the bastard has the body of Adonis,"

From the moment I metuce, I was just blown away by his strength, his muscles and his look," says Arnold Schwarzenegger, manganiellos idol. The two worked together on the 2014 film Sabotage, "In the 170s, he could have easily been on stage at a bodybuildingshow. He has that classion uscular look that everyone wants. But it's what I found behind the muscles that really impressed me. Joe has a huge vision, and has also a sweetheart of a guy, with a huge heart. He's the kind of guy who do tes on his wife, gets you the perfect gift for your birthday or shows up to give away toys in East L.A. to less fortunate kids. Don't ever look at the six-pack, or eight-pack, or 12-pack, or whatever he has now, and think that's all he is."

The rippling physique that has become manganialists trademark is the product of long hours of work in the gym. He even whose a 2013 book on fitness called sworth ion. He looks like a man who has lifted for his entire life, but he didn't focus on weights when he was a high school player. To was askinny kid, but a good at hiele," he says. He was drawn to the arts long before athletics.







Manganie is with his ide Amo d Schwarzenegger (top, from Sabotogr), in MRO's "Tree Boad" (right) and with Channing Tatum (above) in Mogic Mille.

His impulses toward creative as pression began years before Manganiel losp routed into the tall teen who dominated his high-school football and baske ball teams. He was tracking toward a college sports scholarship, until a football injury left him with a torn-up time and the time to audition for the senior musical.

"As a kid, I was an artist, I painted and wrote and created stories," he says. To us I was a good athlete...In Priesburgh, thats just what you did. It was late in the second half of high school when I got hurt. It was time to figure out what I wanted to do professionally. It became clear when I got back into the arts. I realized that was what I was really possionate about, that this was the way to be artistically fulfilled. Then I figured out how to have a corner as an artist that was also partly athletic."

Hed reamed of applying to a hometown institution; the highly selective Carnegie Mellon School of Drams. He auditioned during his senior year of high school, only to be rejected. "I wasn't really ready," he schelts. Twhile 1'd been playing sports, everyone else had been performing and focusing on that. By the time I got out of aports, they was a way alread of me. When I auditioned, I didn't really know what I was doing, and they did."

He took a year to home his craft, "working my assoff," he says, and went back for another audition, this time getting in; "It proved to be such agreet place towork. Role after role now, tatiliblow the dust off the old tricks I learned back them. Like acting with a mask."

Manganiello always had a natural athleticism. But being in front of the camera requires a different kind of commitment to his art. He may not be abody builder, but he had to look like one, he gradually developed an appreciation for the kind of body sculpting necessary to be an action star.

To liked being healthy, feeling healthy, "he says. Tand it's funto push your physical form around," Chiseled, out, ripped choose your adjective and it describes manganistic, whether he was shedding his clothes [just before he turned into a large wolf) in True Blood for as a male entercainer in naggionality, But manganisho maintains that the emotional challenge of acting is more daunting than the physical demands of body building.

> "Working out is fur," he says. "But playing Stanley Howalski eight times a week? That's tough. That's the real challenge."

> He's in no hurry to go back to the ster:
>
> There to say I love the exhibitation of film sets. I love the permanent, yet fleeting natures of film, at lasts forever but its the only time you'll perform it. And so you put everything you've got into that moment. That's really exciting to me. I do love the live audience in the ster, the feedback, the interface. But film is what made me want to be an actor.

Manganiello seemed to make an afforties leap from Cornegia Malfon to Hollywood: He was cast almost straight out of college to play Peter Parber's high school nemesis, bully Flash Thompson,

in the 2002 Species Track. The fille was a hit, but manganiello was unable to capitalize on that auspicious debut. "That film was amaking," Manganiello says. Thus then—wall, I meeded to quit drinking." He'd struggled with also hall addiction from highschool through college, and ance in Hollywood, he were off the deepend at the first taste of success. "My life was ruined. I was homeless, careless and broke with no career," he told effects Meet's in 2016. Sitting in his home now, he says that he stopped drinking, started working construction jobs and eventually got to a place where he was ready to start auditioning for acting roles again. "When I got the drinking taken come of, the work care a back," he says. "It was just my time. I needed to handle all that,"

manganiello has the look of a romantic hero, and he played that role in "True Blood," the show that really launched him during his 2010-14 run. But has shown he can defuy handle comedy as well. He's appeared on hit TV sitcoms like "How I Met Your mother" and "Two and a Half Men," and while his every's notified may have been built around his physique and physicality, it played to his comic talents as well. "Her brought a kind of gooffness to that role, a willingness to be absurd," says Steven





# SHERRY CASK CONNOISSEURS SINCE 1826

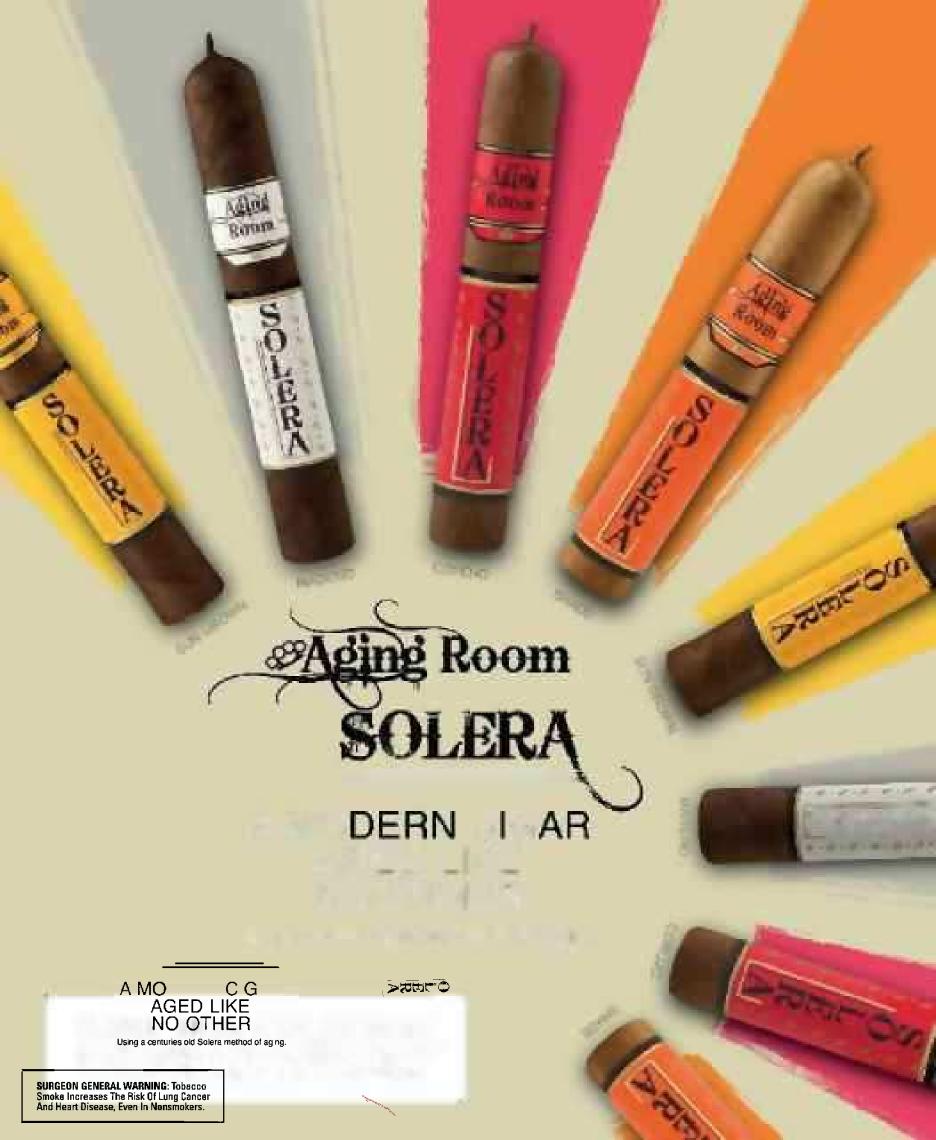
Neather days in the raist High anst hills. The Ghartzmach Dist Eary has been quality inactor ing the act of therry cask maturation since 1826.

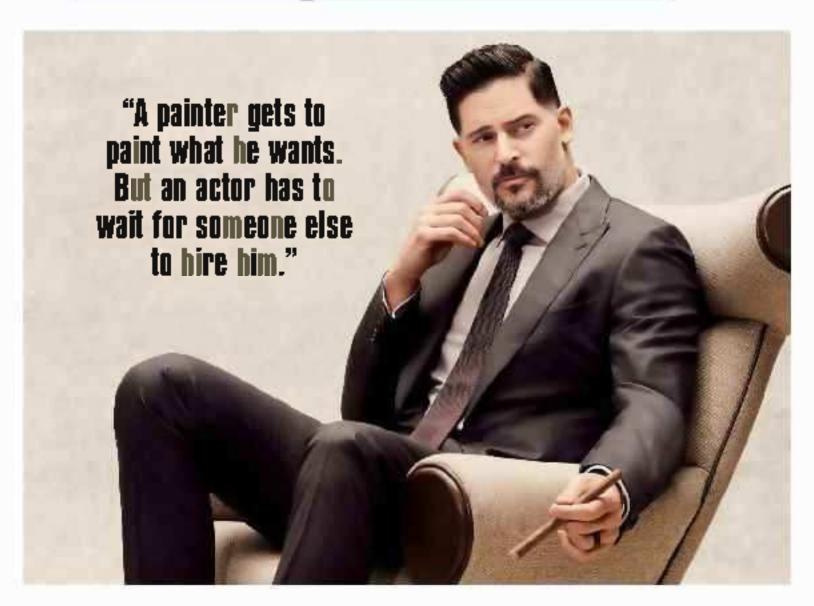
Have in the valley of Forgue, the fluest Podro Ximérez and Olorogo aloury easks hold our spirit. After years in the quart darkness of our during exprehensing these make are rolled into the light, a dram poured from their depths. Every eask will have its morrant; it takes patience and skill to recognize to

Each GlanDronach Highland Arcele Malt bears the influence of long wars in the firest allerry cashs complex, elegant single malts of remarkable interacts, with with depth and a lasting train.









Soderbeigh, the Oscar winner who directed the film and produced and abortic sequel. The had this understanding that this character is someone who takes himself seriously—and that there's adeap vain of humor in a character like this. Joe was in on the joke and understood totally how to play that rich comic figure. He was inside and yet able to look at it from a distance.

Manganiel loeven appeared in the 2016 Per-wee's Big Holiday, opposite the goody and childfills character Per-wee Herman. At one point, the massive Manganiel Io is clad in the same slim-fit, gray-plaid suit and red bow-sle as the mach smaller Per-wee.

"Joe's serie of silliness is the reason I like him so much in the movie," says Paul Reubens, who has played Pee-wee for hearly 40 years. "A director friend of mine wrote me after it came out to rave about Joe, He said, There's not a single kint of irony in his performance" and I thought that was a huge compliment... He's a phenomenal actor."

The film also changed the profile of some of the fans who recognize of angels in angeniello when her traveling, (The lifetong Pittsburgh fangues to as many Steelers games as he can.)\*18 get girls, but 18 also get guys who knew who I was but would say, way girlfriend would kill me if I didn't get a picture with you," Manganiello says, "And 18 think, "Why not just admit you want a picture with near." Doing the film with Reubens means his demographic now also can

skew younger. "Joe told me a few months ago that, when he's in an almost, he gets little kids saying to their parents, "Look—its Pea-wee's friend," says Reubens, "Although I will say that when I hang out with him, he gets plenty of macognition from women, too."

But there's only one woman for Manganiello: Vergara, to whom has been married for two years. It is the first marriage for Manganiello, who met the Errory-winning "Miodern Pamily" star in 2014 and projected marriage siz months later.

"The biggest adjustment in marriage? Coming to grips with the idea that someone who is not related to you could possibly love you that much," Manganiello says. "There's nobody 1'd to the repend time with. She was it for me:

"Peoples ay things like, "Marriage and relationships are work," But it is not. Life is hard. Howing somebody to help you deal with it is the greatest thing that ever happened. It's such an easy relationship—assy in all the right ways. Looking back on the relationships I had before this, I think the universe was giving me some tough practice so its getthis right."

Manganiello and Vergara will appear together in this year's samo, an independent film that he developed, produced and stars in. He plays a one-time baseball phenom whose career's detailed before it gets started, and who must ressentible his life after almost 20 years in prison. "I read the script and knew it was a

great role for me—then it was a five-year struggle of getting it made," Mangatriello says. "It's a story about redemption and putting your life back together. Its more like what I used to do in college diram a school," The straightdiram attic role is the first step in his plan to create and produce films of his own. "There was a teacher at the Moscow Art Theater who summed it up this way; you have to be a bill-payer," says. Manganiello. "And you have to make them both be happy. So I'm the one who pushes me. Yought offered the last thing you did. But most artists want to continue to grow, to more on to the next thing. That's the challenge to a corner as an accor. A paintar gets to him him. As an actor coming up, you take jobs you're not passionate about, or you lose lobs you would be passionate for."

Although stace is small budger, mangariello has dreams to make bigger films as well. "I want to get to a place where I can finally shape things the way I want them. I want to be able to write, direct, produce, act, and do it in my own bigbudget sci-R feature. And I want to write and direct and act in a really nuanced independent film. I've started the long trajectory toward those goals."

The good news is that has focused on expanding his ability beyond just appearing in front of a comera," soder-beightes, "Anyone who understants the business and wants to do that is amore, if you're an actor still waiting to be called to work, you don't know what you're doing!"

Part of his long-term vision stems from turning so last year. "It probably hit me during Magic Mike XXL that if we even thought of doing another one, we wouldn't be young anymore. Turning 40 solidified that," he says with a smile. "I'm not a young buck anymore, I'm a crafty older guy."

Manganiello has forged a friendship with Schwarzenegger, and the reign-smoking analty older guy, who wrote the foreword to Manganiello's fitness book, "He has the ability to put a smile on anyonest face," Manganiello says of the former California governor, "He makes people feel good about themselves, He takes really good care of hinsself and here incredibly smart. He sm ashed all the stereotypes about body builders. Annold is proof that Renaissance mendoexist. I asked how begatt to much done and he said. "You have to learn to sleep faster!"

For sche arcenegger, the feeling is neutral. "I think if you tell." Joe to do to reps, he would do 20," Schwarzenegger says. "That's just part of his intensity, when he does something, he lank content with doing it halfway. He isn't even content with doing it to percent. He has togo beyond."

Mangariel los urge togo beyond his recent résumé and make smaller, independent films will have to stribe a balance with Hollywood's interest in turning him into an action star. Peyton's as parlance directing enongoniallo in Rampage has whetted his appetite for more; "He's an artist mixed with a gamer geek; He puts his enactivity into those worlds, which is why has so good in movies like that, He just gets them, I'm actively looking to work with him again."

Asked to reveal something people wouldn't guess about manganiello, soderbargh chuckles and says, "most people don't know for wears super-thick glasses. He's really blind without them. Theres this assumption you have that he's perfect, but the first time you see him in the glasses, you go, 'Whou, wait a minute.' It's like a Clark Ment moment." Which is interesting given Manganiello's close call with playing Supermanin 2013 S. Manoof Swal and its sequels. Considered for the role, he ultimately couldn't reconcile conflicts with his "True Blood" o'bligations.

As manganial to take on the role of DC super-villain Deathstroke, he should and up with planty of opportunities to fill his spare time on the movie set with more than a few choice eigers. It don't shy away from them. Digars are agreat way to socialize. Thats the beauty of a digar: A good one takes an hour, or an hour and a half. The way attention spans are going, everyone spends their time fiddling with their phone and doing everything they can to not payatemation to the person they resisting across from. But a cigar forces you to bond with other human beings.

Manganiello sometimes smokes eigens with the Termineson. Technic you smoke a stegie with Joe, the intensity dissipates with the smoke, and you can see his sense of humor, his heart, and his intelligence, "says software magger. Thou can have a long conversation about any subject that will fact through a full smoke and then some, and both of you will leave feeling betweaff."

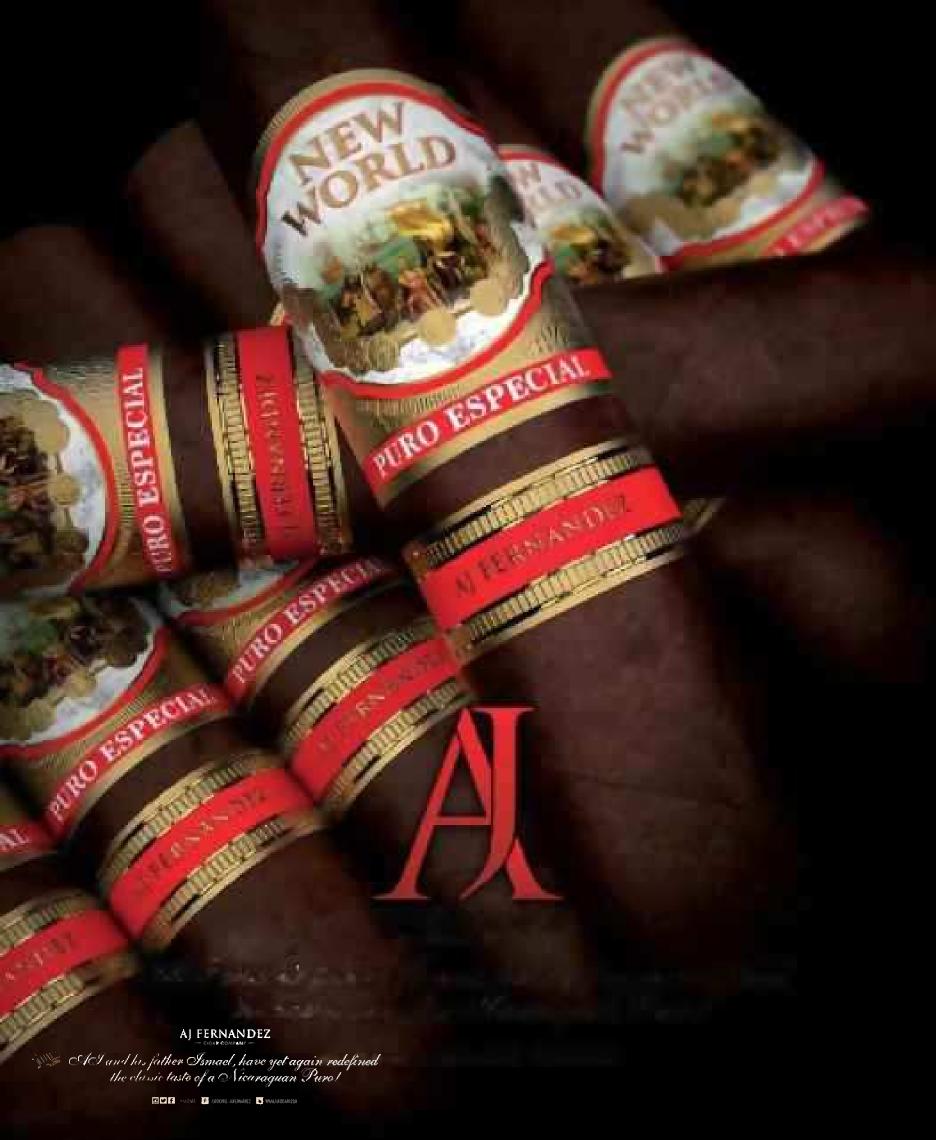
Manganiello remains focused on the future. And it comes as no surprise that the man who works so hard in the gyre to build his body doesn't take any part of his current situation for granted;

Tream (steep unless 2 know I've done my bast, manganiello says. "I can accept failure, or 'No,' if I did my best. I don't wake up in acceptance, when I wake up, my first thought is, Theress work to do. When I lay my head down at night, I have to accept where I'm at."

"Am 1 happy with my life? Absolutely, But the finish line is constantly moving. When I was younger and greener, I probably thought there was one finish line and a race to get over it. When I got older, I realized there is no finish line—you just beep going and going and going. And whateverhappens in your life is fuel for what you do in your work."

Contributing editor starthall Fine is critic-in-residence at The Picture House Regional Film Center in Pelliam, MY





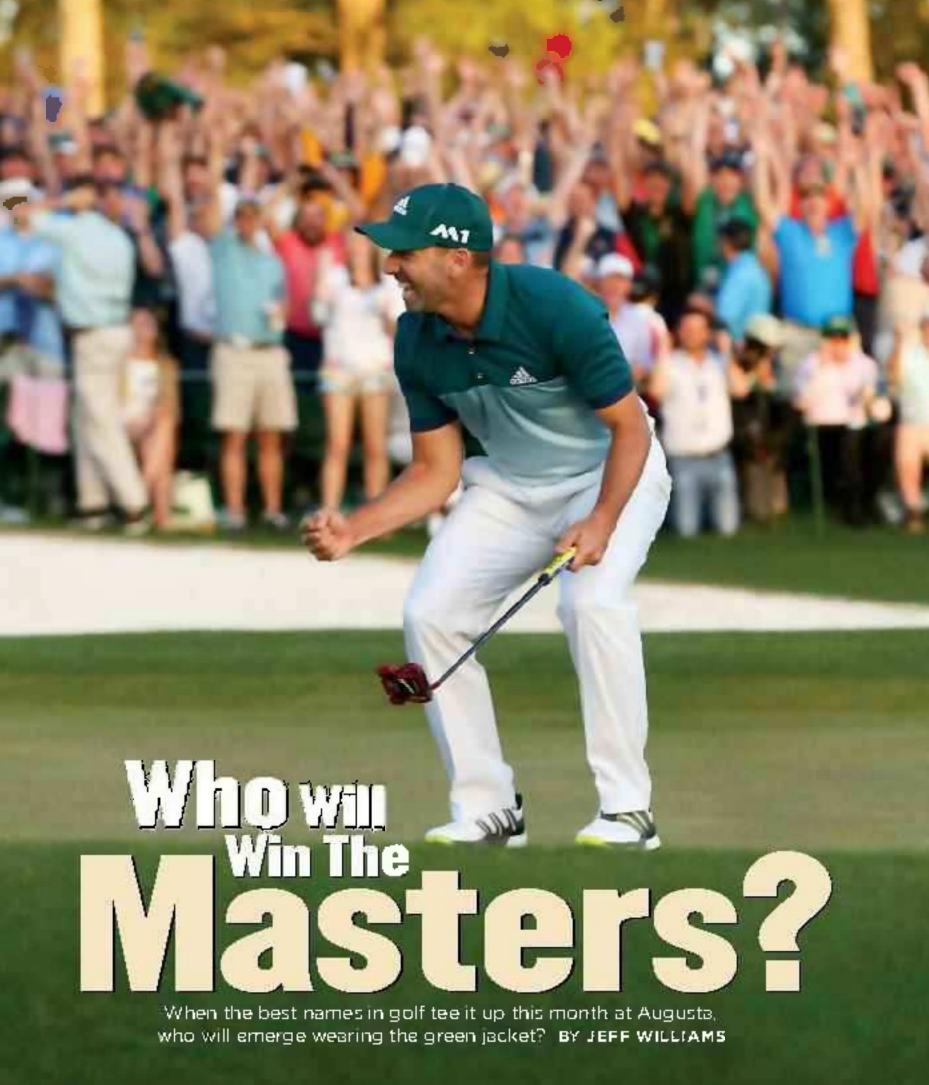
# With knowledge



comes enjoyment.



aficionado





he Masters is soon upon us, and for those in the cold climes, we've already gotten the clubs out of storage, rid them of cobwets, bought a dozen new balls, taken some achy swings on the range and made those initial foreys down thawing fairways. As spring comes out of hibernation the annual rite of golf, the Masters, bursts into the golf spectrum like a supernova. A calest, Magnolia Lane, Rae's Cheek, Amen Comer and the green jacket combine for the games ultimate field of dreams.

There is a cherished certainty to the Masters, its home the gracious and graceful Augusta mational Golf-Club, we know what to expect every year—planty of birdies and eagles, round-killing double bageys, dramatic lead swings and a brilliantly stormy much through the back nine on Sunday where all the greats of the game have made their mark.

There is prother charished careainty that we all play into—we don't know who is going towin, but we love to make a prediction and may be put down a few bucks on the outcome, even if it's just a five-spot with a friend, while golf is not a big be using andly at the Last vegas sports books, it has golf and some momentum over the last solveans, and the current crop of highly competitive players makes the betting prospects for this year's tournament diverse and appetiting.

This we know about picking a winner, we has to be long off the tea (at least long anough) and be precise with his irons, has to have one heckura shortgame, be able to puttilights out, and most important of all, has to have steady nerves to manage his game and anough nerve to take on a challenging shot on the back nine on sunday when winning is on the line. It is a tall order to join the greats of the game. Here's who we think have the best chances to claim victors when the tournament concludes on April 6.

### THE BEST BETS

#### 10 Serbio Garcia

This is a sentimental choice, just tibe translap playoff victory in the 2017 Masters was a sentimental culmination to his career. Only three players have won the Masters back-to-back: Tiger woods, mick Faldo and Jack micklaus, we are talking isonic players have, and Garela never made it into that category despite a spectacular start as a 10-year-old when he finished second to Woods in the 1999 PGA Championship.

But Costain is an accomplished player with nothing to apologise for in his case in the won three times last year and was the European Tour player of the year. Can held it again? We have watched him hover around the upper schelons of the game his whole tile; wasched him with the 2008 Players Championship, watched him spearhead Europe in the Ryder Cup. For him, it simost always comes down to the putter. If the putts drop, his chances soon.



Stylich and smooth revinging Rickie Fow er is a few fevorite. Winning the Machen was digited him his first enging.

#### 9 Jason Day

It just seems like Joson Day is ready to wear's green jacket even though he didn't win a single tournament in 2017. After a combined eight victories in 2015 and 2016 and becoming No.1 in the world, a bad back, injuries and his mother's cancerdiagnosis held him back and he dropped out of the world top to in 2017.

with his mother seemingly healthy after lung cancer surgery, 2016 offers a fresh start. His best two finishes at Augusta were a while ago—he fied for second in 2011 and placed third in 2013. That 2011 finish was the only diese Day broke 70 in the final round at Augusta. He said in 2017 that his mothers illness turned him away from the game, broke his concentration and stinted his desire. But a desirous Day is a dangerous Day. He's got all the tools for Augusta. If he uses them properly, he's going to be on the leaderboard.

#### 8 Hideki Matsuvama

This man will become the first player from Japan to win a major championship and over the last three to attend his name has been on the classic Augusta leaderboard many times. His highest finish, in 2015, was fifth.

Malsuy mast distinctive swing, with the pause that refreshes at the top (à la sob murphy, but twice as powerful) seems suited to Augusto where his natural draw is the natural Rt. And he always seems under control, even though he seems rather people sed by

every shot he kits. One hand comes off the disband you think its going miles wide of the green, only to and up to feet from the pin.

Matsuyama has five PGA Tour victories, two on the European Tour and will surely overtake Isao Ao ki as Japan's most success. full player. Aok i never won a major, losting a stretch battle for the 1990 U.S. Open title to playing partner Jack mick laus at ealtustel. Matsuyama is a better ball striker, and is going to will one of those stretch battles.

#### 7 Roty Melifoy

Picking Molling is a dicey prospect, but you can't rule out this prodigious talent. Mollony, who has four major cham pionships and only lades the masters for a came rule and slam, failed to wine my where in 2017 (small, he did get married). He was hampened by a rib injury that caused him to tale considerable time off. Assuming that he's fully healthy, he then becomes fully viable as a Masters champion.

His best finish was fourth in 2015, but he is rather informably known for blowing a third-round lead in 2011 by shooting an ignominious 60 in the final round. Let's just say it didn't sabotage his career. He romped in the U.S. Open that June for his first major, if he manages his prodigious length off the tee and his putting is fine-tuned, there's no way he should not contend.

#### 5 Rickie Fowler

Halt a very popular player with a very nice Tour record, but upon closer examination Fowler has only won four times. In 2014 he finished fifth in the Masters and no worse than third in the other majors, seemingly a harbinger of great things to come. He's been acontender, but hash't been able to close the deal.

Fow let has almody above that he's capable of playing a ugusta frational, though in his seven appearances he has shown a propensity to throw in one bad round a tournament. In 2016 that was an so in the first round that caused him to miss his only cutchers.

At least two things will need to go his way to win his first major at the Masters—he will have to avoid big numbers and will have to putt better, especially the shorter ones where he has always been a little suspect. There may be no more popular winner if Fowler done arean.

#### 5 Jon Rahm

we don't know yet how good this 23-year-old Spanish is going to be medane to Arisona State without speaking English. He left Arisona State speaking Ruently and impressing everyone with his powerful, controlled game. ASU alumnus [and three-time masters withher) Phil Mildhelson, whose brother Time doached the golf beam, has no doubt about Rahm's future. Don doesn't have weaknesses," Michelson said after Rahm won the Parmers last year. "Every part of his game is a strength. I think has one of the best players in the world. There's an integrible that some guys have, where they want to have the pressure put on them, they want to be in that tough position. They want to have everything fall on their shoulders. He has that."

Rohm made his debut in the masters (set year, finishing 27th. Therets no reason not so expect a higher finish and a green jacket fit for Righm's wide a houlders...

#### 4 Justin Thomas

The PGA Tours 2017 player of the year was more than imposisive—he was downight dominant. Thomas had five victories in the wraparound season, a 50 in the Sony Open last January, his first major at the PGA in August and a victory in the Tour playoffs at the Cell Technologies-Championship in September.

He's only played the Masters the past two years, finishing fied. For 3 2nd in 2017, but this is the tournament he relishes more than any other. It's the emotional component, the dealer he will have to control. Thomas is a very aggressive player, and being aggressive at Augustacan pay off handsomely or drown dreams.

There's no doubt he has a complete game and drives it crazy long considering has a mare tas pounds. There's no doubt has up for hitting the challenging shot, we hit three of them in the final round of the PGA, iding the victory with a magnificent?-iron to the water-surrounded par-317th hole for birdle; Measure him for a green jacket, we'll avantually wearons.

#### 3 Justin Rose

Justin Rose just books libe a winner, Last year he had a shot at his first green jacket, losing to Sergio Garcia in a playoff, In 2015 he tied with Phill Mickelson, finishing second to Jordan Spieth.

we know Rose has what it takes to win a major after all, he pulled off a two-stroke victory at the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion, beating out Mickelson and Jason Day, becoming the first Englishman in 43 years to win that champtonship. He also has two victories in world Championship Golf events. Rose's journey from heralded amateur to struggling professional to top-10 player in the world is great testimony to the sort of fortitude the Masters demands. He has an impressively positive attitude that he ips a for when the vagories of Augusta National start nipping at the scorecard.

He handled the play-off loss to Gardia last year with his usual class. He said if he had to lose, it was Gardia that he would prefer to lose to. Class generally pays off at the Max tars.

## Masters of the Masters

Eight men have won three or more Masters. Here's how we rank them.

#### 8 Jimmy Demaret 1940, 1942, 1950

The first made to win these Masters change onthink Mt 1940 with hy delighted a fat feet of fide of consecutive contributed by the games or gleafath on glato

#### 7 Phil Mickelson 2004 2004 2010

Ond of diny thirds it and the later the action of the later of the lat

#### 6 Gary Player

MAGE, MICH. 1928

No man has payed in more Masters than
Payed N±52±tants bands voicin him thick
voicines: Acage 62 fee became the orders
(named bookstack) and the bookstack)

#### 5 Seat Sneed

1949, 7952, 1954

S within a Sunthing who have the face of fair mast PGA Tour victories won the Masters thicks high Mainhade hithing a 1949 when he was presented with the green patter the first time Augusta meanised that hat evoluther hims





Sam Smad (top) was the first winner to be draped in the green facket Jack Mickaus (above) owns mann than any other man.

#### 4 Mick Felda 2969, 1990, 1996

Si' Mei, Easteid meithir at Augusta Ehriol Emas and heis and af an yellinee menta win Edutolous of Malthir thought a chighwell Tejai' Monds and Lack Nick ans

#### 3 Arnold Palmer

29**58, 19**60, **19**62, 2964

He wan fauf toret at Angulta ty ag faif second a time—and be del til ala mere su yan til timest at Angulta Hat dina til at agai dry of electroned fam made ag of service men wan el fiftt bad dublied i 2 fait 2 Affre

#### 2 Tiger Woods

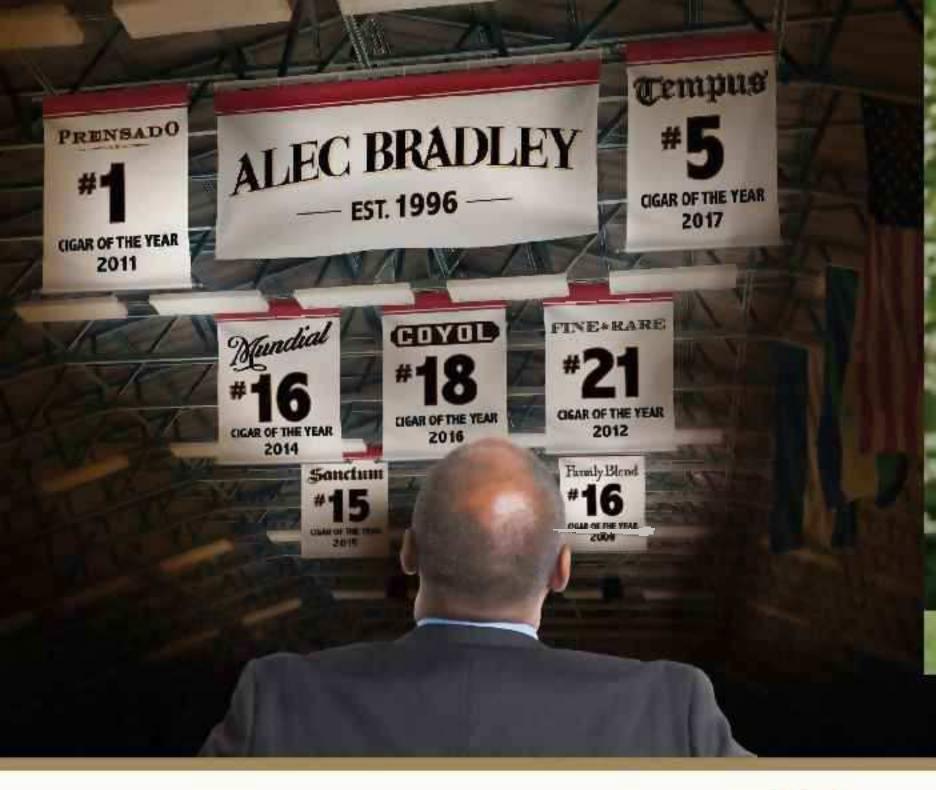
1997, 2001, 2002, 2005

The year (gatt () and ( bo an a that Mattait 2)—year-ord Tiger (Woods brought Aergestato thin heat in 1997 that any reconstition in grate arrang not victory (12 sees her) and owner. Sooks Herdwald four great packets

#### Lack Nicklans

2945, 2945, 2946, 2972, 2975, 1966
The Go den Boar named to 10 action Matter's was agricustive inset me a 1965 of 25 years old He Bo det the receipt of Arabot Hermont was (2.4) and made a receipt of Table 1965 of Court for an action in the description of the gracked 1965 of court at the age of 45 years B2 days also in in the old and made ages of 45 years B2 days also in in the old and enged on first was the Hasters—and filled and demonstration for in the waste Hasters—and filled and the report on in the receipt of the ages of the ages of the second of the action of the

-Oderid Sandral



#### Top Cigar Rotings Are Great.

Earning a world-wide fan Ease - even betten

Oar formula for success is simple. We blend and craft cigars we lave. Confident you'll love them too... Thank you to all our fans around the globe, for making Alec Bradley one of the fastest growing algori companies in the world.

















































With his specture and retired and as improved shortgame, Desting to be converted Augusta ready to win his first grown justice and second major;

#### 2 Jordan Spieth

As long as he plays, this young superstar will always rank among Misslers fevorities. With a magical short game and a maestro's putter, Augusta histlonal will be his for the taking for a couple of decades to come. This cournament—and this golf course—have suited splath since he first played in 2014. In only four appearances, he has one victory [2015] two second-place finishes [2014 and 2016) and his 11th-place finish last year. He famously blaw a five-stroke lead on the back nine on Sunday in 2016, histing two balls in the water on the deviliah parts 12th for a quadruple bogey seven, but most of his Masters me mories have been pleasant ones.

Spleth has a sneaky long driver, we isn't going to be outdriving Dustin Johnson, but he won't be too far behind him, and that means he can reach all of Augusta's pards in two. He should have a lot of two-putt birdies on them, And if he has to lay up, his wedges will get him does enough for birdie nearly every time.

Spieth already has one green jacket. There's a good chance he could eventually have an entire closet-full.

#### 1 Dustin Johnson

Johnson topped the field at the sentry Tournoment of Champions at the start of 2018, looks to be clearly the world's file. It player and ticks all the boxes when it comes to the attributes required for victory at Augusta matienal.

He came into fact years masters as the being favorite, having won three straight to urnaments earlier in the season, then he slipped walking down stairs in his rental house, injured his back and had to withdraw just before his opening round, to a fully fit whiteon is a physical masterplace, and he appears more than capable of painting a masterplace at Augusta hatlonal. His best finish in seven appearances is fourth in 2016, but he's dramatically improved his above game over the last two seasons, and that will serve him externely well.

Given that he is one of the longest drivers on the Tour (he nearly good #460-yard par-4 in January) his wedge play is critical to his success, especially when many other players will be histing two or three clubs more into Augusta's parlious greens. Combine abig hit with a soft touch and that equals success at the Masters.



### THE TIGER FACTOR

If Tiger woods is as healthy as he looked at the start of his season, then his return to the Missiers in April For the First time since 2015 is highly promising. This much can be said about his chances to win—you can't pick him and you can't tignore him:

In the three events he has played through the Honda Classic in February, the fourtime masters champion looked better than he has in the last four years, taking bold swipes at the ball like the Tiger of old and not the old Tiger, 8 ack surgeries had shortcirculated one of the all-time greats in his early size—he last won the masters in 2005. Jack hicklaus famously predicted when Woods was a been age an atour phenom that he would win to masters. It isn't going to happen.

He made the cut at the 2016 Parmers, his first cut on the PGA Tourin 29 months, finishing three under part and in a de for 23rd. He missed the cut at the Genesis Open, then filmed with the leaderboard at the Honds Classic, where he draw massive galleries. He finished at even part and 12th on a very cough course, importantly, woods shortgame seemed to be clicking, and that had been a big question mark the last four years.

There seems little doubt that a healthy twoods can win again. Pros who have played with Woods (Justin Thomas, Rickie Fowler and others) are impressed; He took enough out-rights lashes at the ball in the Hero World Challenge in December to suggest that some sort of mini-medical mirade has taken place, how it's a question of getting tournament tuned.

His psychological fortitude is unparalleled, and there is no tougher player to foce on the back nine on Sunday than Tiger Woods. That toughness seems to be there, we ground out his scores and seemed well grounded doing it.

We always keep our eyes on Woods, how we'll keep our eyes on him at Augusta.

# Cigars at Augusta

there's sowething about the tryonic-era chann's Angetta Hut die that metat senting a operation Masters asset to a unit during detail

"Historis week a cleanor variant of our entire Chill Matthews in the factor Wilder Country of Top Site I Clear in Augusta Wilder grewing activity this telebration Augusta and in this will also pand designed and continue in his next charge and designed and continue in his next charge and designed and a continue in his next charge and designed and a continue in his next charge into the continue of the continue in his next charge into the continue of t

Masters week accounts for many 12 percent of Taip Shoft animal dignitis at Pringle fit and of the ascogar-friendly apertagorage as interpretation with the months of the case agreement with a dignition for hard and dignition for the case agreement with a dignition for hard 1966 to get confort fallow of seasoned organismolers in the skep flags. What is the for attain pain a who dain on it might be the confort get can be greatly smoke at year?

Then thickens Augustat digital book nament badge for ders These unky forks harden badge for ders These unky forks harden book not the dath year to not use a chertain on a not well a grant to grow a chertain of a not well a grant to the a data? I have a which the house harden by the addition of the second of t

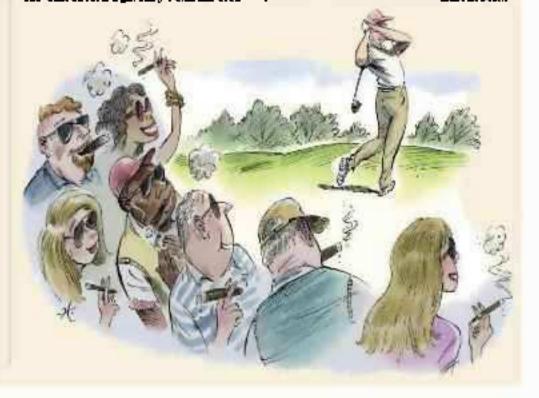
hand beleficient of a few 20 years to sage of the Cogara Marce a Perez owner of Marce as Fire Cogara & Robectatt in Augusta They dely come in carce a year becomey a ways come back to

Marca at a destad just before of 6 fore the capacity of Augusta National—certainly rocal and color fore but chick

had the definition by to attend the Marka it.

She went to the fine round in 2014 and enjoyed and garrent element in green pathet for the percondition. You found a garrent pathet for the percondition. You found a garrent first and the first and the perconditions are supported to the first and the percondition.

-SHOZINGON



# TINCUP° MOUNTAIN WHISKEY

A few thousand feet above is all, there's a place unlike anywhere else in America. Where the floor is made of rock, the ceiling is made of stars, and the whiskey is unlike any other. Made for people who live for the mountain, and these who dream to be there. Mountain Whiskey.





# TIMELESS COLLECTION

4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN CIGAR AFICIONADO'S TOP 25

"4 HANDSOMELY BOX-PRESSED TORPEOU OFFERING A RICH RANGE OF MOLASSES, OAK AND SEMISWEET CHOCOLATE"

CIGAR AFICIONADO - TIMBLESS NICARAGUAN 653T

"A SIGN OF NEWFOUND ENERGY AND COMMITMENT NAT SHERMAN HAS MADE TO ITS CIGAR BRAND."

CIGAR AFICIONADO - TIMELESS DOMINICAN NO.2

NICARAGUA

93)

93)

91)

92

DOMINICAN

1,800.MY.CIGAR

WARKING: Smoking digars regularly poses risks of concer of the mouth, threat, laryny, and esophagus similar to smoking diparatics.

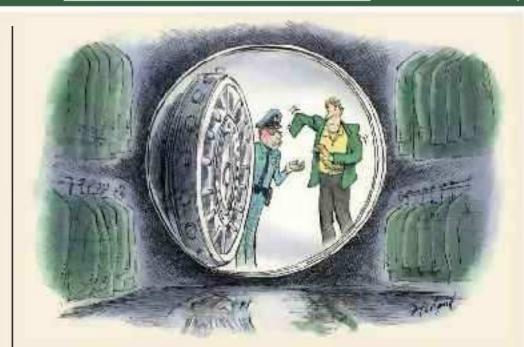
# The Green Jacket

t a containty not fash a nationement of behavior publish with behavior behavior and a got become one dyed in a color check of details performed by the containty of the second of the se

At the 19 67 Market of the Mark of Model
Robers made the enrighment is useful
Makeus made the enrighment is useful
Makeus during the opernament to descrip
Charles not bot pattern it that any aformation
When hosting general in the cubicuse is and
data the majorit backs who data the cubicuse.

Should you win the grevious years champoint. It is you this a chieffich so justick burrowed from a member (Beware chey bow bos suck Hickands flicht victory and he doubt he his rest in about ) After the histin a you he measured for your own jac het anade by Harth too Taron ng Go is Callainet.

The packet does not come with came blanche to purhate your got hing property You belong that a year force expected on wear come as go for mood deaths. (Ph. Michelson's example) his so a Krispy Kreme direction on the main for mood unit in 2004. Matter it was fitten for the first in the fitten for the fitte



packét ké khá cin 6 whelé ká kélik hin apócia romni You org crost (and back ní) when you mát Gody Payal gétinátáin á hódá én felah Robers when be kept his mai org

The original back to away: book as folial. The original beautive glowers hopeach vertain a few debt back thanks Subtained with this best glowers decided and inches 1990s. Here was that all on a wait fe'cy beautiful this beautiful and are stemped a Country or and discount of the beautiful and thinked in Horan Carta and The beautiful and thinked in Horan Carta and The beautiful and thinked in Horan Carta and The beautiful and thinked as the second of the beautiful and thinked and the beautiful and the second of the beautiful and t

cigar case. But doe't baglootte dicuste the dot ign. The we form sourcely a chree-busion (remember dely illustrate the findel of historic Fitzackot with noods agent flag poeties and a single veet.

Acceptation and with the packet to end on the and he was any as Augusta's grows to extente thinks detailed at Parken's No. 542 if you're wearing a grown to become to match process that parks will appear muddy so go office that parks will appear muddy so go office that parks will appear muddy so go

Of course there is a nother path to a green path to the up high data GROOM Audit data and that and the course awarded to the first Masters will approximate the first Masters will approximate the first Masters will approximate the first Masters will be supported to the first Masters will be

- Jack Softwicker

# THE LONG SHOTS

#### Xander Schauffele

Mothing heroided schediffeles as troordinary rise in 2017, He ded for fifth in the U.S. Open, won the Greenbrier in July, the Tour Championship in September and was rookie of the year. This will be his first enactars:

#### Brooks Koepka

The reigning U.S. Open champion put on a firtuoso performance at Erin Hills in 3007, driving it long and soraight, histing planty of greens and making bindle putes, against that doubt transform to Augusta. Last year, at his third Masters, he played the par-5s in 10 under.

#### Marc Leishman

Leishman was a first round co-leader at the 2013 of assets, eventually posting his best-ever finish of fourth. His most impressive major was the 2015 Open Championship at St Andrews where he shot 64-66 to make the playoff with winner Zach Johnson and Louis Oosthuisen, Today he is playing at his best.

#### Brian Harman

Harman's 5-7, 150-pound frame closes i't match up to some of the physical specimens ha's facing, but he's overcome a lot to get to where he is in the game. And he knows the hest of a sunday major, shooting 72 in the final round of the u.s. Open last year to finish fied for second. Harman has one appearance in the Masters.

#### Dot Daras

sy mid-zots, Perez had only one victory since turning pro in 1997, and after shoulder surgery, he was wondering if he would even have a career. Now, with two recent victories, he's playing the best go if of his life and has a top-zo ranking. Maybe, just maybe. •

Jeff Williams is a Crown Apparonance contributing editor.











Hennessey distins the 1,500 harses under the haad of its Venam F5 can take it to 301 mph, which would make it the fastest street legal carrin the world.

HE CLOSEST THING I CAN IMAGINE WOULD BE STRAPPING MYSELF INTO

AN FA-18 FOR THE THRILL OF A CATAPULT LAUNCH OFF A NAVY CARRIER. thate od, the slipped into the new Bugotti-Chiron, belied. up and given my-co-driver the thumbs up. This time, I'm only along for the ride. At \$2.7 million a pop, I can't argue when it is reaggested to Restable a check ride to feel what it tillle och and 1,500 horsepower coupe takes off in anger down a nearly three-mile straight. So, after firing the beast up and running through a checklist a pilot might admire, he gives me. book the thumbs-up, reve the engine a couple times, align the transmission into mean and bits the throttle.

Carrier I sunches can generate &Gs or more – that is, six times. the force of gravity—and without specially designed pressure sults. pilots would black out. The Chiron can only deliver a to Burick But that 3 still enough to drain the blood from my eyes as 1 sink deep into the Bugattils heavily bolstered sports seat. By the time I can focus again and turn to check out the speedometer we've siready blasted through 60. It took a mere 24 seconds, and four seconds is ter we've sopped \$25. But the Bugot dikeeps on pulling, toppling 200 m ph in barely 15 seconds. We've already used up a fair amount of pavement, so the driver decides to back down. before quite reaching the 250 mork.

The recently introduced successor to the appositionlike Bugatti Vayron lays claim to being the world's fisteststreet-legal

production automobile, though it faces some surprisingly intense. competition for that crown from an expanding array of products. like the American-made Hennessey Venom 75 and Sweden's Koen daage Agers RS.

They is all street legal, albeit with price tags that only some. percenter milght consider. Chuming out horsepower numbers: that push well above 1,990, they make more familiar muscle and agons com, whether the sleak, 640 hp Ferrori 488 OTB or the Balley Bad-kiji Dodge Challenger SRT Dernon, seem tome. I refeed, they are so powerful and blindingly fast that they require the unique sobriquet of "hypercars." Exactly what that means, however, is a master of debate::

From the days of the very first suspensibile, buyers have been craving more power and performance. "The fascination for high speed has lost none of its appeal to this day," read a statement from Dains for AG a ordion this year, marking the Both anniversary of race. driver Rudolf-Caracelolate record 268,9 reph run down a stretch. of Autobahn near Prankfurt. He drove a specially modified Marcedes-Benz race can Even the most exotic vehicles available. to done umans of the 19 303 double fearefy top 1000, it wasn't until the 1950s that products like the Jaguar XIKE2D and the mercedes Gull wing SL made triple-digit runs possible on a routine basis.

while it neight not be the first brand to dome to mind, some eaperts credit Rord with coming up with the first true supercar, a street-legal version of the GT-40 race can that it designed specifically to take down Ferrari at the 24 Hours of the mans, which it won from 1966 to 1969. The production version, introduced in 2004 as simply the GT, made what seemed almost impossible at the time, a whopping 335 horsepower and 336 pound-feet of torque. It could hit so in just 51 seconds and topped out at 172 mph.

Today, any number of wehicles tay claim to being a "supercar," altern that actually dates back to the 1920s. An adi for the Ensign 6, a behavior meant to challenge the likes of Bentley and Rolls-Royce, declared the sedan to be The supreme development of the British super-can. Today, the Collins English Dictionary describes supercar as, "a very expensive, fast or powerful can with a centrally located engine," a definition that can cover a lot of serritory, including familiar models like the Portche 9tt Turbo, and pretty much anything from Lamborghini or Ferrari, but hypercars take things "to the next stage," says Don Sherman, a long-time received a veteran reporterior Cor and Criver magazine, "They've goteven more power, less weight, more technology and a lot more performance." If you want something more definitive, hesuggests, "It's gotta go 250 mph, certainly well over 200, which has become almost corn monplace these days."

no car fit that definition better than the Bugatti veyron.

visesse model -chich coprumé a suiteness world record for street legal cars with a top speed of 267.656 mph. The roadster version hit an average 254.03 mph during testing in April 2013.

After taking an order for the SOUTH Veyron, Bugatti of ficially ended the production run in the 20 to 80 to was no about to does up shop, unveiling a successor model, the Chiron. By then, the race was on and a growing list of worthy competitors has since thrown down the goundet hoping to best suggest at its own gone. The numbers have grown ever larger and faster, with the mannessay Vehore FS rated around 1,600 hp. But for those who think even that—and a top claimed speed of 30t mph—just doesn't out it, as mail, Mide ast-based start-up may finally be pushing the upper limite. Making its debut at the Dubai Motor Show fast movember, the appropriately named Devel 5 inteen its claimed to deliver a jaw-dropping and necksampping 5,000 horsepower from its own, quad-turbo, to-cylinder engine. Devel promises the two-season will top out somewhere secund to mph—after without anyofficial test runs. And it can be youts for \$16 million, a relative bargain in today 5 hypercarclass.

Plenty of skeptics question whether Devel can deliver on its claims, something we may not know for another year or two. But one thing seems certain, with new billionains being minted every day, there's plenty of money out there to support the hypercar industry. And some intriguing new technology that change the way the game is played.



Long, low and sleek, it featured the sort of outrageous design that might have seemed more appropriate on the set of a sal-R Rick. The Veyron EB 164 was unwelled in 2000 and marked the revival of the legendary brand founded by legendary designer Ettore Bugatti nearly a century before. (Volkswagen:AG purchased it in 1998 as part of a compaign to dominate the extreme fusury and performance market. Other examples of such way acquisitions include Bentley, Lamborghini and, more recently, Porsche.)

With its unusual, quad-turbo, W-libengire—referenced by the LBA in its name—Bugasti boasted that the Weyron would become the Rist-ever, street-legal, factory-produced vehicle to deliver 1,000 horsepower. The concept was so bold that the BSC declared it "Carof the Decade" before the first one even rolled out of the factory in 2011. The original version set a top speed of 253 mph, but Bugasti engineers weren't done yet. They steadily amped up the LB-cy linder power plant, cappling their efforts with the Veyron Grand Sport

With the launch of the Tesla Miodel S, the Silicon Valley auto-Higher should there les the sore don't have to be stour and gorderosis. with its optional Ludicious mode, the model 5 PLODO edition can match the Bugatti Yeyron's 0-to-60 times. Then there's Rimac, a Crostian start-up whose Concept One is not only being billed as the worlds forcest electric vahicle but a hypercar in les own right, making uzza horsenower and capable of histing 60 in a mere za seconds, Meanwhile, late last year Tesia CEO and founder Blon Musik unvalled the company's second-generation Roadster, declaring his intens songive a hardcore smackdown to vehicles running on internal combustion angines, at will arease a mind-baggling 10,000 pound-feet of tire-spinning torque, he promises, and will hit a top speed of 250 m ph. How far it will get on a full charge at that appead, wall, must fan't saying, but speed is the enemy of energy-efficiency for any fuel type, in a flat-out run, the Bugatti Weyron would empty its 36-gallongus tank in just 13 minutes.



# Clean Air Defined

Official air purifier of the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailers (IPCPR)



Effective . Quiet . Stylish . Air Purifiers
For a free tatalog call
888.866.8862
www.rabb tair.com/smoke



# Aston Martin Valtyris

Unveiled at the 2017 General Motor Show and still a ways from production, the British aports corrected Rest true hypercar is being developed in cooperation with its track partner, Red Bull Racing. Both the street-legal and track versions will be produced in very limited numbers. The ultralight, monocoque-design two-seater will use a mid-engine 6.5 floor Cosworth engine as packed to make 1st least 1,000 horsepower.

# Bugatti Chiron

while the Chiron picks up on bey styling cuts of the brands previous eactio, the Veyron, it is anything but a "carry-over". A closer look reveals significant updates made to ensure that Chiron can deliver a whopping 25 percent more power than the old sugasti-brand sport viouse, something that should help it regain a number of world records, including power, torque and top speed, 5 urprisingly, getting 1,500 horse power and 1,150 pound-feet of torque aut of the Chiron size-liter quad-turbo by 45 engine was less of a challenge than beeping brakes and power win cooled at 250% mph.

# Chevrolet Corvette ZR1

A Chary? Wall, those o matter of debate because the latest version of the seventh-generation "Vette retains its up-front engine placement. Nevertheless, it delivers what GMI calls "unprecedented performance." Description automated 6.2-fitter LTS V-8 charms out o





solid 755 hp and 715 pound-fact of torque, and it can ollp 60 in barely two seconds, with a top speed of around 216 mph. What the automotive world is really watching for, however, is the long-awaited reid-engine Corvette caught by "apy" photographers while it was sessed at places like Germany 3 murburghers.

# Regrari Laferrari and 600

Only this station automaker would name its first hypercor after liself. The La Perrari was more than just first and explic. It introduced the world to the idea you could make a green (well, greener) hypercar using a Formula One-derived hybrid system, that dombines a 6.2-fitter V-12 and 120-kilomattelectric motor that receptures energy during braking and coasting, how domes the successor, the FXX-K E-o. Built in extremely limited numbers, this four-wheeled arrow of a hypercar also borrows heavily from Ft for both its serodynamics and powertrain technology—the hybrid engine package rated at 1,036 hp.

# ford GT

The successor to the original Ford GT40 was, like the '60s-era hypercar, initially designed for the racetrack—dominating its class in the global and processeries for the last two years. Fittingly, only 250 will be built in the initial run, an upgraded version to follow with equal numbers. Some, however, might quibble about whether the GT deserves to be called a hypercar. It makes only 647 hp, and its twin-surboss discremention has but six cylinders. However, due to its light content construction is bosses one of the highest power-to-weight ratios of any street-legal performance carever built...

# Hannessey Vancon 15

This American-born hypercan could soon not only capture the world speed record, but become the first production model to break 100 mph. No wonder its harmed for the most powerful tornado on the Fujica scale. The limited-adition FS uses a Hennessey-designed V-B that makes 1,000 horsepower. But power isn't everything, With its carbon-fiber body it weighs just 2,950 pounds and wind-tunned testing has helped minimise drag while maximising the down force needed to stay on the ground at such extremes speeds.



िविक्का है।

# Koenigsegg Agera RS

starting with the "One," this swedish marque has rolled out a series of hyper-enotic machines that have challenged for more established ultra-performance brands like Perrari, Lamborghini and McLaren. The Agera RS, in fact, claims a slightly higher top speed than the new Bugatti Chiron, at 278 mph, and there have been hints from the company that it could yet push to 200, challenging Hennessey's Yenom PS. Oh, and it can reach 250 mph in a need 33 seconds.

# Lamborgbini Huracán Performante

when it comes to outlandish designs, he can come close to matching what Lamborghini routinely rolls out. And even its most mundate models deliver inspiring levels of performance. But the Performante clearly pushes the envelope with a car that can stand on its own on both the dragstrip and on a more conventional race discuit. It will turn a quarterm lie in a mere to a seconds and it has lapped the grueling in thoughing hordschieile in just sia minutes \$2.1 seconds, a production can second:

# Melarea PI and XX

Claiming more PL victories than any other manufacturer, the British carmaker was one of the first to push into hyperconservitory with the exotic and unusual FL. It followed with the PL cartier this decade and is now readying the \$1 million Senne, named for Pormula One legend Ayrton Senne. (He spent six years under the McLeren Rag, winning Is recessand taking three world champlomhips.) with its distinctive guil-ving doors and ultralight carbon fiber chasses and body, it will be powered by a 780 hp twin-turbo V-8.

# Mercedes-AMG Project Due

After a long wait, we've finally gotten our first official look at the German marque's first true hypercars. A major step beyond the earlier SLR and SLS supercars, the Project Ones specs might seem like a typo it uses a miniscule 1.5-liter turbocharged engine, but one that can spin at 11,000 RPMs. And it's paired with four electric motors that, all combined, thrust outovers,000 homepower with essentially no turbo leg. It even promises 25 miles in all-electric mode, as well as a 207 mph top speed.

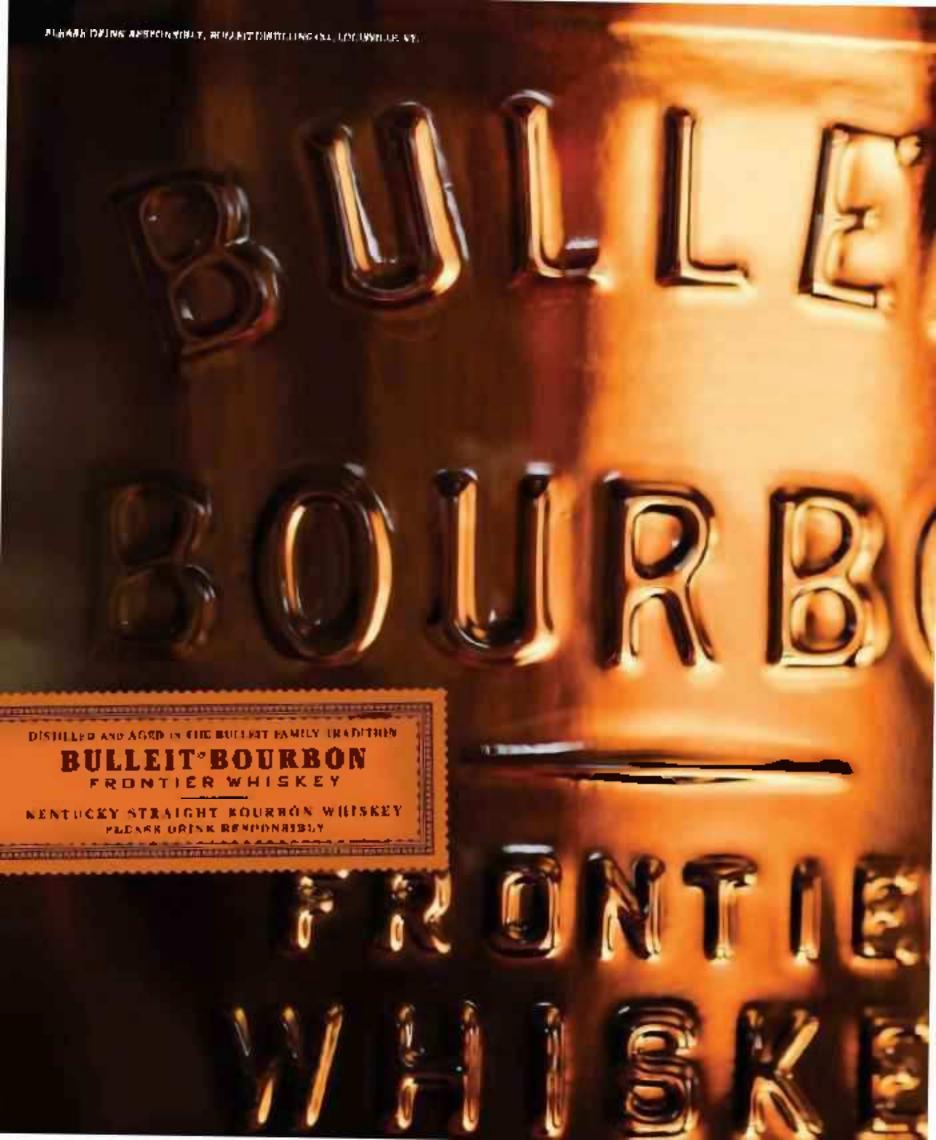
# Porsche 918 Spyder and Mission E

The 916 Spycier was a break through model for Porsche in a variety of ways, among other things marking the first time the German sports concompany opted for a hybrid drivetrain, one using Formula to be technology. The mid-engine plug-in could even drive 19 miles in all-electric mode. The automaker will neat year launch its First all-electric model, the Mission E. And though it won't fall into the hyperconcategory it's expected to deliver herform and in time with some of Porsches. Estate models.

# Testa Coadition

we haven't gottom much from Tests yet on the second-generation Roadster. It's focused, for now, on figuring out how to fix production problems with its new Model 3. But during an autumn 3017 sneak preview, Musk set hearts all user by showing off a prototype that, he claimed, will make an awainspiring 10,000 pound-feet of torque, hit 60 in barely two seconds and top out somewhere in the 350 mph range. Want one of the first? Tests is taking advance orders for a \$300,000 deposit. •

Paul A.: Eben xein with a frequently on cars for Cross. After one co.







You carned it.

PLASENCIA CIGARS

Perfected over 152 years, yours to enjoy now.



# SMAIL DO DO SMARTS NO BENEFIT PAILER NAMES AND THE PRINCE PAILER NAMES AND THE PAILER PAILER NAMES AND THE PAILER PAILER

guy teats to tell me that he has a 33 percent chance of winnings can in a casino. I consider it for a best and write lit off as wishful thinking. A similar message comes from Eddie Teams and I figure that hels come across a fevorable situation and has high probability of parking a new auto in his driveway during the coming days.

Teams, in his forties, has won more than 30 cars from distince schools the United States. He is a canny advantage player who games casino promotions all med at prolific gamblers and capitalises on the miscalculations of suckerbers. A mathematical approach—based on cost versus opportunity of various propositions—has led him to with a house in Pahrump, nevada, to take down raffle-card drawings as if by magic, to devise gambits for beating book les even if he knows nothing about the sporting event. At first glance, Teams appears to be the luckiest guy in Nevada. In reality, he ranks among the hardest working.

Understandably, Teams gets inked when people talk about common games being unbestable.

Walking through Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, formenty the militoryout of which trains and his crew of advantage players have entracted many thousands of dollars, he simply status: Towery casino game in the world is bestable, and it can all be done without breaking any laws. There are blased roulette wheels, side bets at every table game are bestable. I've memorized shuffes, recognized card-backs, sequenced aces, controlled dice!"

And for anyone who thinks slot machines, video poler and electronic blackjack games rank as sucher bets, Teams has big here: They're not, in fact, they have long been his bread and butter. His millions of dollars in earnings at those gambling devices, often considered the province of people who are old, clueless or finite, underscore the point. Amazingly, while Teams knows the math of the wagers he makes, there are times when simply paying laser-sharp attention is enough to carry the day.

Eddie Teams has taken an astonishing amount of each from minor casing games must top gamblers ignore

Consider what went down at a dasino in Arisona. To won \$150,000 in two months," recalls Teams. "Wheever got; in the recession play, within a designated period of time, would be called first to pick from five large poster cards on a wall,"

Their fronts, with varying amounts of money, faced the wall and were positioned out of players' sights, but the backs, of course, were visible. Tone was \$50,000 and the others were \$10,000," Teams says. "You had to lose so much on the slots (in order to have enough play to participate) that winning \$10,000 was not very good. But if you hit \$50,000, it was a nice profit. The first drawing, I wan \$10,000 and saw a guy with the \$50,000. I committed the back of the \$50,000 card to memory. I knew they duse the same cards the next time and knew rid be able to recognize it just like you recognize your cell phone," he says, referring to tiny, almost imperceptible screeches and imperfections. "Then I came back, played enough so that I would be first to plak, and his is add that three times—before they brought in new cards with clean backs and I couldn't do it any more."

At the vegos mord Rock, for a similar contest, ofter Teams won by the same means, casino management tried foiling him by making sum the cord backs were 100 percent identical. Then I saw algory placing the cards on a board for players to pick," says Teams, who realised that the casino employee knew where the high-paying card was "Thirty minutes before the contest, I found a parmy slot machine that gave me a view of him setting things up. I played the machine and watched this guy's eyes. He kept looking at the winning and, whether he wanted to or not, he couldn't help himself. I knew with nearly 100 percent certainty where the big-morely card had been placed and won again."

There's also a way to buy the world's fundlest wristwatches without paying anything close to the going price, so long as you move in the same circles that Teams close. He wears a handsome Audamore Piguat Title a \$40,000 watch," has ays with no health-tion." But I paid \$1,000 housensay that I'm abit of a pawrib rober; I have 50 million worth of watches."

Like most good things that have happened to Teams, this side conserbagon in a cosino. Back in 2003, he was playing every day at Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, but he wasn't gambling it up at block jock or Texas holdern. Teams found his edge on a video policy machine called Pick'em Poker, "It was boring," he



says. Tso boring that I sometimes had to play a higher risk machine just to relieve the tedium::

The results, though, were snything but boring. Played correctly, Pickiem Poler was close to a break-even machine. Molegon sun, in an effort to induce play from seeming suckers, gave enough comp dollars for machine-play that Teams earned some \$3000 on hour. But it wasn't cash, what Teams made were credits that could be spent at Mohegan's retail outlets. "I worked out a private deal with the owner of astorn in the casino," he says. "He sold me gold coirs, which I went on to sell. They came with a nice loophole." A loophole he preferred to not get into.

Leading me to the Wesigate Steakhouse, Teams continues: It had more to in-in and more afterwarded leas than anyone in the casino," he says, emphasizing the word theoretical and making it dear that he did any thing but leas. It spent so much time in the high-limit room that degenerate gambiers there started talking to me. Evantually some of them asked to borrow morely. They were always broke and gave me their watches for collateral. Some guys sold me their comp dollars and that was fine as well.

The watch he's currently sporting?"1 did the deal for this one in vegas, I was at the Coesa's Palace sports book. Aguly called see and said he needed money. I told him to meet me at Caesa's and to bring the watch. Coesa's ware going off and I didn't want to miles the mile.

itting down at a table in the steakhouse [the meal is compad, of course), Teams is sipping a glass of single-mail Scotch and waiting for one of his partners to join us. He explains that things storted for him on a car for in Hawaii. His father was in the military; Teams was to and landed a job working for an auto dealer in Oahu. At the time, hed id not know how to drive astick and turned out to be terrible at selling cars. The boss offered Teams two options: Det fired or relocate to a sister dealership where a manager was particularly adapt at training rookie salesmen.

Teams chose the latter. The trainer was named Eddle Suzui. Tit was intense," recalls Teams. The west into mirror greating techniques, showed me how to read people's lips andeyes, taught we strategies for recognizing when people are lying or willing to accept a price. I learned a lot and became very good. I wound up in Vegas and thought I would get a job selling cars there while I worked on card-counting—something that I had been interested inever since I saw the movie resionate in 1988. One day I was out on the lot, the temperature hit tits degrees, I felt miserable. I had already gotten a head by \$30,000 playing double-ded. [bisckjott games] and spreading from \$35 to \$200. I quittry job and began playing full time.

Adding to his advantage-playing repertoire, he got into shuffle tracking and hole-carding. For the former, Teams taught himself to memorize slugs of cards by making up stories with each card representing a different character in the story. Marilyn Monroe, for example, was the Queen of diamonds. For the latter, he'd apot dealers: hole cards and send info to a partner who would do the beiting. To see the cards, though, Teams explains, and get down really low in my seat. I began wearing kneepeds under my pants and that helped take care of the pain."

After getting backed off for card-counting at a low-stakes blackjack game in an off-strip casino—"I split los four times, won all the hands and the pit-boss told me I couldn't play blackjack anymore because he was too busy to watch me"—Teams sew that video pokeres pert Bob Dancer was holding classes on the game in the casino. Dancer is a well-regarded advantage player and he gave legitimately good advice, but the casino knew that few people would follow his wisdom and, empowered by the class, they'd feel emboldened to risk money. Teams turned out to be one of the few who actually listened. More importantly, he was drawn by Dancer's coupons for double-payments on royal flushes.

All you had todo was sit through the entire class and, if you

"Every casing game in the world is beatable, and it can all be done without breaking any laws."

---- EED IE TEANK

played perfectly, the coupons gave you a 2.7 percent advantage. [For comparison's sake, card-counting pays off at 1 to 2 percent and gats you kided out of casinos a lot quicker!) Dancer put on two classes penday, Teams religiously attended both of them and exploited the coupons. Dancer finally took him saids and warned him to take it easy on doubling up one is the casino would back him off from video poker. He listened, found other opportunishes and came to recognize that money was not made only from hitsing straights and flushes on the samen. You could also get rich by playing the right machines and capitalizing on bonuses, cash; back offers, free play coupons and various drawings designed to attract losing players.

As Teames unspook his story, a playing partner by the name of Dave Miller, in his thirties and a marethon-rading fenatic, joins us at the dinner table, we put in our food orders and he compets. Teams to tell me about a recent play.

Exposed Resons world Cosino in Quanter, a gambling dan that offers only machines and no table games. The casino had an offer forgomble is who played enough of the desino selectioning amening a single day, entitling them to receive \$6,000 in free play divided over the next three months. The problem was that you doubt put in for the payments only once every three months. On the upside, players were able to sotally the play requirement at an expected loss of around \$600, and the coupons were received able at blocks inside the doubt, as apposed to being mailed to a local addinest.

Knowing the particulars, Teams realized that he needed as many players cands as possible. "All we needed were conds and pin numbers," he explains. "My girl friend is from Leos, and she seemed tok now every Labor longers adminished in New York. We remaid a van, brought them to the cashno, paid them \$200 each forgetting players coads, then played on the coads and cashed in for the free play."

One challenge was getting the coupons at the kilosks. Casinos have come ros everywhere and management does not take kindly to people who play under multiple cards to seriously monetice.

# BA AROMA DE CUBA





A taste from another time



and the course to

www.ashtoncigar.com

1 20 %

the promotion. Teams did a literal headcount and noticed that one in four men at Resorts World wore Yankees hats. So every body on the crew became instandy indistinguis hable by wasning a home-team cap. Miller took it a step further, "I would bring in two cords at a time and beep coming back with different looky; he says. "I'd wear a hoodie. Then I'd return with a baseball hat, Then theread be a sea shirt or a windbreaker or a suit."

Things got busy enough that Teams felt the need to recruit non-professional gambles for obtaining the coupons. At least one of them, who had a day job as an engineer, found it hard to believe

"Casinus and lawyers can say a game is completely unbeatable, but, when you think about it, that is crazy logic."—wow TERMS

that he could be made so easily. "This guy went in and just stood there with so comes, coshing one often the other into the klock," Miller resounts with a nucliul tone. "They caught him. He got taken into a back room, was threatened with a rest and got read the trespiss act. He came to my hotel room and was devestated."

Though annoyed at the time, makes shrugs it off how; "Hels got a regular job and is not used to that stuff, I've been in that situation so many times that I don't care. Still, I so of our accounts got frozen and that was the end of it. It instead two-and a-half months, if the engineer hadn't go tran us shut down, we could have made more than \$ 800,000."

when asked how much be mode, resmantiles tightly and replies: "I don't recall  $\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}$ 

he waite races down prime beef and the usual steakhouse sides. As we dig into dinner, Millere applains that all casino personnel are not as rough as the people at Resorts world. Others, in fact, are surprisingly good sports. He remembers a particularly judy promotion at the Place Motel & Casino in downtown Vegas. The deal was that anytime you hit a payoff for \$1,200 or more, which is texaed at 28 percent, the dashowould provide a 30 percent bonus.

Ridiculously profitable for sharp players, it was scheduled to go for 34 hours, from midnight to midnight, "We were 18 hours in when a casually drassed guy, in his chircles, with a eridah accent, walked up and started asking questions," remembers willier. The asked how we got there, how we have about the promotion, how we were doing with it. Then he learned into me and said, "I really schemed up with this promotion, didn't is a realized that he's the owner of the casinot

TMy heart started racing. I said, To be honest, this is pretty good for players. Then he saftly is led, "How but will this be for new till been the promotion going until midnight, as promised, but just tell me what the damage will be." I told him that it will probably be around \$300,000 per machine. He absorbed the news and said, "Well, you have to lose sometimes." Then he gave us his business card and bept it going until midnight, in retrospect, it was hillarlous."

They gation a roll and means talks about the time he got locked inside a casino restaurant with a lucrative blackjack machine, we and his crew dould have stayed there all night if not for a homeless guy inadvertently locked in with them who kept kicking at the door trying toget out.

Miller talks about a bingo game he used to burn off a load of feepley points for a windfall of \$300,000 and a progressive video pokermachine at the Paints that had to pay-off at \$25,000, "Rigot up to \$24,000," says writter. To had to play it for hours to ager, but leaving at that point would have been a mathematical catastrophe."

Rounding things out, they are deep into spores betting. Hereis an easy tip from Teams: If an first, underdag is ahead by a lot at the half, against a public outfit like the Patriots or Cowboys, make a halftime bet on the dag to cover the spread. Teams has been applying advantage playing strategies to the trading of futures and cryptocurrencies. He's been doing well with it and hopes to find outside investors. One stock play he missed, though, unspooled at a major, publicly traded casino back in 2006, before he wasteriously trading, when shares of its parent company were below \$2. The struggling casino company, desperate to generate immediate revenue, a mounced that players would receive four times bonus points, which could be turned into free play. It was so valuable that when a gambler was told he would have to move his car, he asked that they tow it, lest he step away from the machine and lose valuable time in fronto fit.

The promotion was supposed togo for a day and got extended to lost a week. It generated cosino cashillow that succeeded in propping up the stock. While Teams, Miller and others experimented serious windfolds—13 made over 5t million that year," says. Teams—they missed out on the biggest advantage play of all by failing to listen to casho personnal that they viewed as shifts.

Remembers Miller: "A man in a suit walked up to us and said, "I know what you guys are doing, wa'm fine with it. But the best thing you can do for your future is togo out and put some of your money into this cas ino's stock." May mentality at the time was to keep playing and not worry about anything else. People thought he was bissed and I didn't know if it was a huge opportunity or not." One woman, however, did: "She put \$100,000 into the stock and it want from a dollar to \$18. That was very good for he:"

As for the future, Miller has a plan: "Being unbestable at sports, finding opportunities with machines, making and less money."

Maybe taking in the bigger picture a bit, Teams steps back a motch and says, Tasinos and fawyers can say agains is completely unbeatable, but, when you think about it, that is cresy logic. It may be incredibly complicated, but there will inevitably be a way to beat it."

Then, with dinner completed and plates being classed, manes scrutinizes the tab and realizes that his-complished quite enhausted, the flags the walter and orders an entire cheesecabe togo. Clearly, leaving more, on the table resides outside his frame of reference.

Michael Kaplan is a Cupa a Americana po complete ingleditor.



# Buy tickets before they disappear!

# WhiskyFest

The Leading Whisky Festival on North America.

# WASHINGTON, DC

April 17, 2018

# SAN FRANCISCO

November 2, 2018

# **NEW YORK**

December 4, 2018



Buy
VIP Tickets
and Enjoy an
Extra Hour
of Tasting!

# Some of the outstanding whiskies you can taste:

100D Stories A. Smith Bowman Aberlour Alexander Murray & Co. Amador **Antheg** Arross Baker's The Halvesie Baruan 1792 Rasil Hayden The BenRiach Bib & Tucker Blade and Row Edanton's Blood Carb Rocker's Buwiuo≎± Britten Mest. Desirance

Bruichladeich

Buffalo Trace

Hulli4t

Bushmills:

Case Noble Compass than Connemura Cooper & Thief Cristia Risyal David Nicholson Reserve Devar's Diekel Douglas Lating Dave Take Runn Driftles Glen Distillery Klijah Craig Four Roses Olen Cramit The ClenDronach Clen iddich Clenglassaugh Glengerne The Ulculinet Сівпаннарую The Clemathes Gooderham & Worts Green Spor

Hakushu Нелгу МеКелид Hibiki Histh West Highland Park Hillrock Estate Hudson LW Harper J.P. Wiesr Jack Daniel's Даннежин Jim Beam John & Allisak John Drew Ilve Johnnie Walker Kavalan Kilheggan Knappingue Castle Knob Oreek Lagaretha [aphraig Langeny Linescone Brauch Distillery Let 40. Lack Rose Distillans The Viscular Malary Mark Maskasinis Michigan Midleren Barry Crockett Milelea Nooku (Then Old Fittagerakl Old Forester Okt Pulsanev Old Rip Van Winkle Parker's Heritage Collection Pike Creek

Pikerelle Ryc The Pognes Provers John's Larte The Quier Man Rebel Yell Redbreast Redemption Whiskies Russell's Reserve Хожтае The Section Slane 2methurn Stillhouse Stolen Stramahanis Teeling Whishey

The Temple Bur Тенсир Talai Tullibardine Tyroonne I Wayne Gretyky Whisley West Cork Distillers Westland Wheatley Vodka WhistlePix Wild Turkey Woodford Reserve Yamazaki Yellow Spot

var all adjust to a water for in all states.

- Hundreds of whistes to sample
- Enjoy a gournnet buffet all evening.
- Attend FREE tasting seminars by whisky experts
- Meet the distillers and master blenders
- Special Bonus: Receive a one-year subscription to Whisky Advocate magazine\*

\*Current substrantings and be amended.





divice to whiskey snobs: If it's St. Patrick's Day and you're in a bar (and what are the chances of that?) don't turn down an Irish whiskey on the premise there land much choice. First of all, you'd be missing out on a rapidly expanding category that recalls a time when the island nation could claim to make the world's preeminent whiskey, second, it doubt get you cold-occled. Better just to go with the flow and enjoy one of the many excellent drams that are the gift of the rebirth of Irish whiskey.

If you think of Irish as a supremely smooth blend meant to bolster's mugof coffee, you're only partially right. The Emerald Island has a spirits heritage that stretches back a millennium and a half (depending on whom you set) and includes quite a flavor panorame, with many whiskeys better suited to sipping neat or with a rock than poured intocoffee. The whitesof history have not always been kind to the whiskey culture in Ireland, and there are a

number of myths about the spirit; that Irish whiskey is all tripledistilled, ungested and blanded. Let us set the record stronght.

Whiskey has been made in Ireland for at least 400 years, and parhaga more than 1,000. Based on a written record from 1495, the Scots claim that their whisky predates Irish, but reason suggests that may not be the case. Distillation equipment (for perfume) could be found in Ireland as early as 600 A.D., back when a mere 200 million people walked the Earth, so it tries the imagination to think that the Irish reglected to make whiskey withit for him centuries, by the end of the 12th century a couple thousands tills existed in Ireland. Many were tiny, cottage affairs.

unlike much of todays trisk whistey, back in those days the spirit was quite smoky, and made with plenty of peat, both to dry barley or fuel the stills, as peat was so widely available on an island known for its bogs. When Dublin became the distilling capital of the teth century, coal edged out peat as a fuel source, taking away some of the smoky qualities of many trisk whisties.

A 1765 tax on barley can be credited with giving Irish whis key some of its distinctive, modern-day flavor. The tariff was more one rous on malted barley than unmalted, so distillers in search of a tax deduction mixed in a portion of unaprouted barley with their usual malt. The sevencipity of the dedge was that the addition of green barley gave the whiskey a spicier, fruitier taste, a flavor now so-closely associated with whiskey from Ireland. Irish whiskey made solely from malted barley virtually disappeared.

Distilling in Treland was originally done eaclusively in pot adilate the blended whishey that treland is now associated with had yet to exist. The use of a more efficient (and profitable) column adil to make some of the whishey in a vasting is what constitutes.

enough, the Second world worseverely out grain supplies.

The industry's reaction to the slowdown was to consolidate, and by 1966 all whishey makers in the Republic of Ireland, including such renerable brands as Jameson, Powers, Midleton and Paddy, had marged into Irela Distillate Ltd. By 1975 Dublin ceased to make whishey, and all distillation in the country moved to the new midleton plant on the south and of the island. The Old Beachmills distillery in fronthern Ireland was swept up into the group in 1970. Irish Distillate was sold to Frances Permod Ricard in 1988. Bus hmills has since been sold and resold and belongs to José Cuervo. The Paddy brand now belongs to America's Science.

Happily, the story improves from there. John Teeling, a seventh-generation distiller, was already converting a schnapps distillery in County Louth, near Northern Ireland, to make whishey and by 1987 had founded Gooley Distillery. He immediately





blanding, Asmos Colley, on trishman himself, patented this continuous method of distilling in 1830, but the island did not fully embrace column stilligrain whistey until the 20th century.

rrish whickey fell into clow decline 100 years ago. The island's separatist movement had been clashing with Great Britain for a half century before reciond was granted independence in 1931. A British trade embargo, which had already been instituted in 1919.

Heart that trish distillers (with the exception of morthern Ireland producers, like Sushmills) could no longer distribute to the united Kingdom and its considerable territories worldwide. The trouble was whipsawed by the introduction of Prohibition in the united states, a lively market with no shortage of this himmle grants. Canada, a convenient neighbor, Rooded the U.S. with well-made contraband that would supersede trish on the American palate. Acap ones ports by Ireland's new government meant that when Prohibido Hended in 1933, and and was ill prepared to recepture the American market. If those weren't problems



began reviving old brands and styles, which now include single malt, single grain, blanded whiskey and the pealed Connemars.

The rebounding interest in whishey in general and the resurgence of trish whithey (especially Jameson) has made the United States treionds most important global market, accounting for 40 percent of sales. New brands are swelling the market and at least 18 new distilleries have a percent on the past five years, with a dozen more

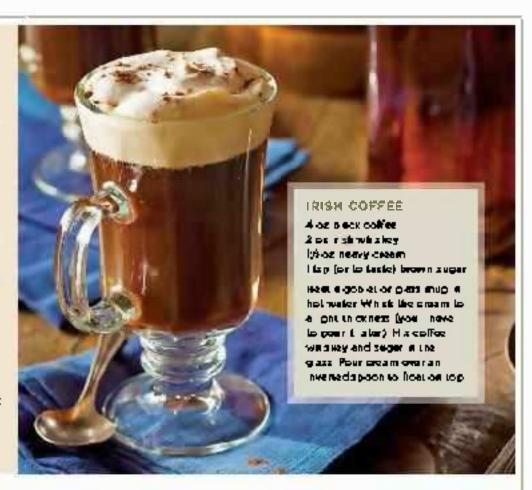
planned. Tull amore D.E.W. recently returned to its former hometown with a new distillery. The once-shuttered Kilbeggan Distillery in County prestmeath was restored years ago and distillation has restarted. [It's also a popular spot for tours.) In 2015, the sons of John Tealing, Jack and Stephen, returned distilling to Ireland's capital of Dublin with their own facility on freemarket, in the heart of Dublins old whishey-making district.

With the big name distillers continuing to up their game with exciting new releases, its a good time to get your trish up with some of these fine whisheys.

# Coffee's Greatest COCKTAIL

Two can tafely attume that self-style a miscalogists have been adding whis key to their coffee ever since the two were available in one place, but the foremost java cocktail was not coorded until the age of commercial transationtic flight. The story goes that in 1943; had weather forced a Pan Am flying boat on as way to flew York back to beland and the pastengers were given into two two coffee and a topping of cream to keep them warm.

It wasn't long before the arink flew international. The mellow, caramel of Irish whithey softens the acidic coffee. The sugar in the mix makes the cream budyant, and the combination comes together as the dark lower layer is drunk through the light floater. The result is one of our favorise drinks, a simple cocktail that pairs on so well with a bracing cigar.



Eastwell's 16-fear-Old Single Malt (80 proof, \$80) This northern reland distillary makes nothing but single malt in pot stills (column-stilled grain whiskey is produced also where for its blands). The 16-year-old single malt is aged in Sharry and Bourbon casks before being joined in Port wood for a number of months. The result is a begulting mile, delicate and bold with cherry, caramel, toffee, honey and spice...

Connermana Pearled Single Malt Whiskey (40 proof, \$55) Currently unique among Irish whiskeys for its smoky, peat flavor, Connermans still shows a range of fruit, including pear, as well as toust and liconice. Twice pot-distilled, instead of the three times common to analysis, it has a full body and makings.

Jameson Bender's Dog (86 proof, \$70) The second in the whiskey makers series highlights the important art of blanding, especially considering the extensive stock held in the Midleton distillery that makes Jameson, married for a tool used to draw samples, it melds different ages and styles to come up with a numbed flavor spectrum that includes orange, lime, coop and because.

Kilbergean Single Grain (36 proof, \$10) Single grain refers to a whiskey made in a column still at a single location (in this case, Cooley Distillery). With a recipe that is almost exclusively corn (its only 6 percent barley), this kilbergean would normally be part of a blend. It stands on its own, however, with the expected vanills and honey, plussome understand herbs and spice.

Recibre as Aged 15 Years Single Pet Still (92 proof, \$80) An example of the style of mixing maked and unrealised barley in one whiskey. Not chill-filtered, it delivers a range of notes, including berries, pasches, honey, caronal and ficorios.

Sealon Single Malt (80 proof, \$30) A new horthern Ireland whiskey, aged on the grounds of Old Bushmills distillery, sea on has the heady bread-dough aroms of its pot-still origin and the fruity flavors of its Sharry cask aging A chaese note southes on the upper palate.

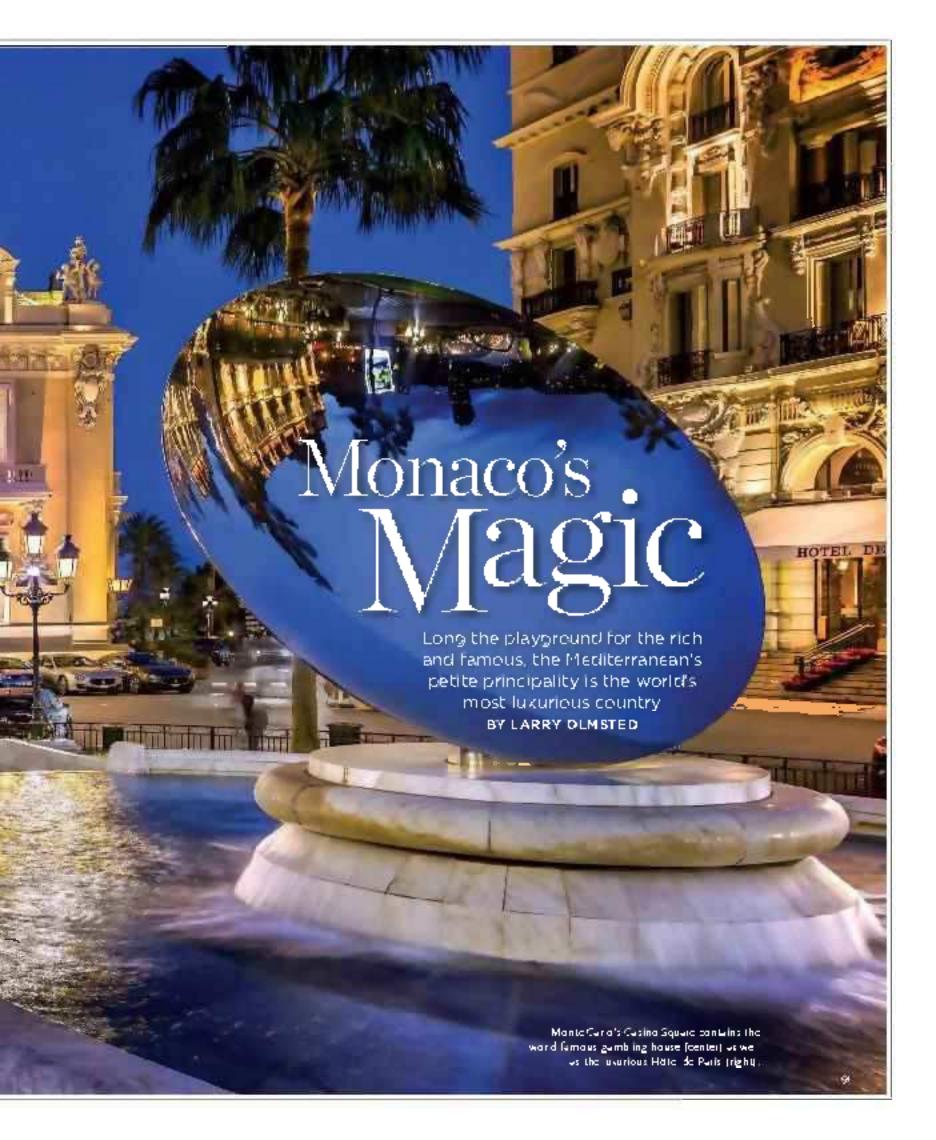
Siame (BD proof, \$30) Triple-casked, this new brand is aged in accombination of virgin, former Sherry casks and American whiskey bornets, supplied by torown-Forman, a parener in the venture. All the fouchstones of American whiskey—caramel, toffee and vanills—are here, supplemented with softspice and lively fruit.

Taeling Single Nalt (92 proof, \$55) The maturation of this materiavolves five cast types, including sherry, port and madeirs. The whistey is not chill-filtered nor colored. It starts out perfumed and quickly moves into meany fruit with raising and vanilla and a leathery spice. (We sampled whistey made at Cooley distillery before the new public facility opened.)

Tuillamore D.E.W. Cider Cask Finish (80 proof, \$40) Formarly only systable in metand, the cider-cask-finish D.E.W. now comes to America, but only seasonally. A few months in an apple-cider cask produces the expected apple flavor in apples. But also there is careful, toast, cinners on and molasses.

The Tyleconnell Single Malt 15 Year Madeira Cask Firsh (92 proof, \$100) Another Cooley Distillery product that revived an old brand, this recently released, limited edition whiskey is distilled twice and finished in former Madeira wine casks after a 15-year maturation in Bourbon barrais. The first flush is buttery with the sweetness of honey, before giving way to notes of onega marm slade and singling apices. A long finish.

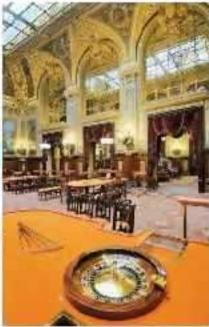




T'S A PLACE where the locals' idea of uber is a helicopter transfer from the sirport, where you can't walk a block without seeing a McLaren or Lamborghini, where you can clothes shop in the company of royalty, dire make to billionalms and bet in the world's most glamorous casino. Champagna flows like water, and the water itself floats the swankiest private yachts. And it sall packed in a space smaller than new York's Central Park.

The Principality of Monaco is not the world's smallest country (thats various City), but it is the richest. Its three-quarter-mile area boasts the highest per capits GDP (5087,900) and the largest percentage of Hillionalms (29.2). A long list of royality, movie stars, professional athletes and musicians small the ranks of its 18,400 population, enjoying the tan-free haven with a gargeous setting on the Mediterrarean. While residents include Ringo Starr, tennis star Novak Djoković







Cambing and dining contribute to Monaco's chann. Above: the cigar friendly outdoor gaming was at Casing de MonacCard, Top: A sin Ducasce's to Louis XV sector and (will) and the cosing interior (right).

and numerous Formula One drivers, the country also draws its share of celebrity visitors, from Leonardo DiCaprio to Jay 2—especially those who attend the nearby Cannes Film Festival. The top two Michelin-star holders, Alain Ducasse and Joël Robuchon, both operate multiple world-class measurants here:

That the tiny nationenjoys a larger-than-life reputation is no scaldant. Monaco leverages a calendar flush with ultrahigh-profile sporting and cultural events and basks in a fantasy image created by the real-life fairly cale wedding of American moviestar Grace. Kelly to Prince Rainier and its deep association with fictional spy James Bond. The inspiration for tan Flaming adabut 007 novel, Cardeo Royafe, Monaco's Casino de Monte-Carlo would become a set in multiple Bond films. Roger Moore, who played 007 more than anyone else, called Monaco home, as does along a Shirley Bassay, the only one to record two different Bond theme songs, Goldfinger and Diamond's Air Forever.

But Monacois glamor is relatively recent. For much of its early history, it was one of Europe's poorest countries. Previously a colony of Genos and later Aragon, it was purchased by the Grimaldi family in 1419. Between 1646 and 1661 Monaco lost 96 percent of its territory—the recet famile parts—to France, much officeded by its own-citizens. It's adecision their descendants have likely regretted, given that soday the Monagosque pay no taxes and enjoy high-quality free education and health care. But at the time, Monaco was desparate for economic reinvention, and in 1855, it legalized gain bling: hevertheless, the first few casino attempts failed because of in accessibility.

In 1863 the royal family created a holding company, Société des pains de mar (SBM), to run chings. The société built the balle époque Monte Carlo structure and handed operations over to François Blanc, manager of a successful German casino. To deliver gamblers, Blanc quickly expanded steamship routes from Nice and then built a railroad and funicular connecting the casino with the train platform. Most famously, heeliminated the double-sero from the routette wheel, lowering the house edge. So successful was Blanc that he became known as "the Magician of Monaco." By 1869 the casino was doing so well that the principality no longer needed to tax its citizens. SBM now operates multiple casinos, hotals, restaurants and highsolubs here.

This pattern of self-reliance helped the country overcome its fundamental geographic problem—with no place to expand east, west or north, it instead turned to the sea, and through dredging and reclamation, expanded les footprint by 25 percent. Other venues are linked to Monaco in name only. The mountaintop Monac-Carlo Golf-Club and the tennis studium at the Monaco proper still boasts one of the highest percentages of general act of any European city. The environmentally obsessed reigning monarch, H.S.H. Prince Albert 12, requires all new buildings to preserve a minimum of 30 percent of their square footage as open space; it is but one kilometer from the inland French border to the Mediterrarean, with no bad neighborhoods, no crime to speak of. Two cantails about Monaco as a country, as a city or sea village, asses Claudia Batthyany, an executive at the Pairmont Hotel.

"People get confused between Monte Corlo and Monaco;" explains Patounata Proissert Diallo, who runs Pair & Pairy, a



Guests of Le Vistamar restainment at the Hole. Harmillage enjoy one Mediti manual studged and uses of a harbor with come the year of is synanklest yachter.

high-and private guide and travel service. There are six districts within the principality, and Monte Carlo is just one, but it's the most famous, so everyone just calls the whole place that. The gentle slope that is Monte Carlo contains the Casino de Monte Carlo as well as the city's top four fuxury hotels. The famous casino, the Hötel de Paris, the Opera House, and the Café de Paris, with its own a trached and large sino, form the main aquane, while other fine hotels, the Metropole, Pairmont and Hermitage, fanous around it, Looking down towards the marine and mediterrarean is the Oki Town, home to the palace, as well as the nation's

# "There are six districts, and because Monte Carlo is the most famous, everyone calls the whole place that."

acclaimed oxeanography museum/institute. The U-shaped port is lestown neighborhood. Stretching along the waterfront are resortstyle hotels and the city's main basch. A small residential area sits above Monta-Carlo.

But tiny Monaco packs a big punch. The most powerful tourism drow is the region's state of high-profile annual events. Its superior lodging and dining options serve many calebrities at the nearby Connec Film Fastival, monacos marina hosts Europes largest in-water boat show (50,000 + isltors, 600 boats), the Cannes Yachding Fastival, Held on Alay, the Monte-Carlo Roles Masters is one of the nine Super Tournaments of tennis.

The Monado Formula One Orand Pris is arguably the worlds: No. I race and certainly the most important event in its class, with the indianapolis 500 and the 34 Hours of Le Mans, it comprises the Triple Crown of Motorsports. Held since 1929, it is the only Ft raced entirely on public at west. Except for a single small patch of grass, every vantage point requires a ticket or real estate with a view. Yachts on the wateraide of the racetrack, Hôtel de Paris rooms overlooking the casino square and Palmont Hotel books with baloonies above the Isonic hairpin are do vated spots.

The Grand Pria, which takes place in May, is wrapped in a bow for those who can afford to attend. Every hotel in town salts it as a four-night package. The incepitality industry makes about is percent of its annual revenue in these 95 hours, with food and drink at substantial premiums and the better hotels on amanding \$2,500 highely. Recing fan two kgs Lucas lays out \$25,000 each year for one of four corner suites at the Pairmont, with views of both the halppin turn and the equally famous tunnel. The noise of the cars becomes like music," says Batthyany. The race is praceded a week sortlar by sither the Historical Ft race, with vintage cars, or the E-Pria, with open-cock pit electric cars.

"If you ever get the chance, go during Princess Stephanies circus event in January," advises broadcaster and journalist mich sel Patrick Shiels, who hosts a syndicated drive time morning radio show that occasionally visits Monaco. "Concession stands sell crapes and Champagne instead of peanuts and beer, and its the Fanciest circus you'll ever see." The Monte-Carlo International Circus Festival of the circus world. Hundreds of acts apply and the two best performances are

swanded the Gold and Silver Clown. It features animal acts, comedic performances and choreographed acrobatic feats. Prince Albert heads the judging panel while his sister, Princess Stephanie, opens the festivities.

Other one-of-a-kind monado annual avants include an opera fest, off-road rally race, arts festival, philharmonic, international music festival, dance forum and one of the world's most prestigious fireworks competitions. The gala flose Ball, held every march, is the principality's major charity event, benefitting the Princess Grace Foundation. The Ball requires fancy dress, but that is hardly unusual in festion-centric monado.

"What I love about Monaco is that you can be anyone you want there," says Shiels, who has done his broadcasts in white dinner jacket and bow tie. "It's one of the only places you can just wear a tue to dinner without a reason and feel normal, but you don't have to... There are always celebrities in town, and where

With no place so grow in and, tiny
Monaco enthracer its waterside. The
Fallmont Hotel is in the foreground.

Shares

else might I stand shoulder to shoulder with a billionaire or the via star? Not in regas thats for sure, but despise the glamour, it's very open and accessible, because it's sosmall and secure. You hight wall see Shirley bassay or Princess-Catoline. Prince Albert has been known to get borred with the food at his palace and walk seroes the streat and also so the bar at this little family-owned stall an restaurant in the Old Town—his neighborhood joint I guess." Diallo adds that she has seen Princess-Caroline and har daughter shopping in Zara of all places. And during a recent visit to the city Prince Albert drove past—in one of Monaccis humbler sedans.

The casino is equally popular with gambiers and gawkers, though the latter don't get beyond the first room. There's a so euro entry fee to get inside the main casino (unless you have dining reservations). Heavily gilded—more palace than cosino—it sports a domed rotunds, masters' paintings and huge, or nate

chandaliers, each containing over 300 pounds of schemian crystal and covered in gold leaf. Two features you are unlikely to ever seein another casino are a large grand dock and natural lighting, with windows and skylights. Thy by Vegas standards, it has a handful of gaming cables, a few alot machines, and a large bar, where during the day tourists live out their James sond fantasy moments by ordering pricey martinis (that annot stirred). The bar is popular even before gambling starts, as the docatopen at 930 A.M. for sights sing. Wagering—along with a dress code banning jeans, sneakers and requiring jackets for men—commences at 2 P.M.

The real scene is in the smaller "private" back rooms, which require another to auto cover, and are more lavish and strac-spheric. (Admittance to both areas is waived for guests of SBM lodgings; Hôtelde Paris, Hermitage, Monte-Carlo Beach, Monte-Carlo Bay and assorted rental Hillas). The semiprivate rooms spill

into one snother, and while not isrge, the entire compleк is bigger than it looks, with a couple of restaurants and bars, multiple garning areas, and one of the most prestigious opers houses in Europe score and. Whereas the big action is in the semiprivate back area, with chips (actually rectangular plaques) numring up to one million auros, cóbla minimums seasurpelsingly low. They start at just five, 10 or 25 auros dapanding on the gome, with the most popular being roulette, baccarat and blackjack (there are no crays). All the gameing tables are by law made here in Monaco, and becatifully appointed, the wood all polished and the felt immaculate. Arm rests are leather and our holders bross, reathing is remotely worn or tired. When smaking was banned indoors, the casino odded a back-patingsming area that is pleasantly at fresco, on a large marble terrace overlooking the Mediterranean, It has about a dozen cobles and eigans for sale.)

The three other desinos in the country are more for convenience than grandour,

A small one featuring mainly slots is in the back of the Café de Parls. The Pronte-Carlo Boy Hotel and Fairmont each contain their own, the latter being "American style" with games like craps and three-card poker.

"To me Monte Carlo is a tiny jewel bon," says Anne Scully, president of McCabe world Travel in Virginia. Having explored every inch over the years, she suggested some of her top sites: TMy favorite area is Princets Graces Rose Garden, and another favorite is the Japanese Garden. The Royal Castle has tours of the Princets State Apartments and don't miles the changing of the guards, always at 11:35 A.M. sharp. Afterwards, there are some wonderful restaurants hidden in the alleys close to the castle. Le Montgolfière Henri-Geraci is agreat choice. Very close to Monte-Carlo in Saint Jean Cap-Ferrat is villa Ephrusal de Rothschild, a walls back in time to how the great wealth of the world lived. The



AND LIFE WILL TREAT
YOU ROYALLY.









JOÉL ROBUCHON AT THE METROPOLE

LOUIS BY AT HOTEL DEPARTS

CIGARS AT HÖTEL HERMITAGE

# Living Like a Prince

# CIGAR FRIENDLY

Cigars are widely popular in Monaco, and all the major hotels, including Saphir at the Pairmont, Crystal Bar in the Hermitage and the Metropole Bar have either rooftop or outdoor bars and patios. The lobby bar at Le Meridien overlooks the Mediterranean and offers cigars paired with smoked cocktaint. The Caumo de Monte-Carlo has a cigar-friendly gaming patio.

### DIR MA BY CHEF

Atian Ducame Second in Michelin stars amassed, Ducasse runs three rettainants have. His time-that outport, Le Louis XV, is where James Bond would eat, it has daily tatting menu, a la carte items and a dress code.

Ducatse also operates the note only slightly more casual Le Grill restaurant, and the Frattoria at the Monaco Sporting Qub.

Job! Rebuchen The world leader in Michelin stars awarded operates all the drining vehicle. In the Metropole Hotel. Joël Robuchon Monte-Carlo is very related for a two-star, with an open kitchen, Many dishes are accompanied by the chieff signature decadent mashed potatoes. His first Japanese

effort, Yashi, is one of the best in Europe, Cayttey, located at the pool complex, is his seafood-driven concept, Done in partnership with fashion Kon Karl Lagerfeld, it is exclusive to Metropole guests.

Chef Genoit Witz Witz is famed for nit nangling of the region's seafood. His Vistamar venue at the Hermitage hotel delivers ocean Villes along tenth Michelin-staired cursing.

Place Raidn Blue Bay at the Monte Carlo Gay Hotel restaurant earns a star for its Meditershieth-Carlobeth fution cursine by Ravin, who halls from Martinique.

Noise Matsuhisa The city's most recent nigh-profile addition is an outport of Nobe, serving the groundbreaking Feruvian-Japanese fution cultime from the global legend Hobe Matsuhisa.

Located at the Farmont Hotel, it's now one of the most popular spots in knwn.

# LODGIRG

Histori de Paria Locates on the cauno square, Mâtel de Paris was just extensively renovates with firmer, but larger, rooms, brand new suites and a pool and topa to complement its beach!

Restaurants include Alain Ducasse's

three-star Le Louis XV.

no avainantecemo.com

Metropole One of the few hotels that
the government doesn't own a stake in,
Metropole contains the city's finest spa,
a Kini Lage rie io-designed pool, firstclass rooms and four restaurants by
legendary chef Joal Robuston. It is
attached to a lurury retail shopping
mall, in the heart of Monte-Carlo.

metropole.com/en

Hêtel Hermitage Located near the Metropole, the city's third most fuzurious notel, Hotel Hermitage, it a sister property to the Môtel de Paris and nome to the Michelin-ttaived Vistamar restaurant, as well as a notable cigar and spirits lounge, footelhermitagemontecarlo.com Falmont monte carlo the large Fairmont has its own casing as well as Mediterranean views and some of the most coveted vantage points for watching the Grand Prix.

Le meridien the most resort-like of the Monte Carlo hotels, Le Mendien has both a beach and a pool complex. Its cigar-friendly labity averlacks the Mediterranean.

femendienmontecario.com

medieval walled è se village, just over the border in France, is a treat: The views are breathfaking and it's home to the wonderful or ichelin two-star-Chevre d'Or...) was fortune to see Elizabeth Taylor and George Hamilton in the dining room there once.

Other top attractions include the renowned Oceanographic Institute and its museum. Founded in 1910, it was one of the principalitys first foreys into environmental awareness and protection. Built into the cliffside, it contains three floors of public aquariums and museums. It also has an open-sir roof top bar and cafe with one of the best views in Monaco. The Prince's Palace, originally built as a foreatop the Old-City in the 19th century, has east sections open to the public. Daily tours include the room where Prince Rainier and Grace Helly were married. Its daily changing of the guard is almost whimsical. The Exotic Gardens feature more than 7,000 flore from around the world, in addition to a care filled with stalectifes and stalegmites. The 1878 Opens House, part of the catino, is renowned for attracting world-class opens singers and ballets. Pew visitors miss the Princess Grace Rose-Garden, which boasts 8,000 rose bushes, as well take and an

office groves pread across nearly 10 screet. The separate and equally well-done Japanese Zen garden sits at the city tenseem edge.

Prince Reinier was an avid collector, and today his 100-plus vintage cars are on public display, including the rare 1903 De Dion Bouton and dozens of models from the likes of Rolls Royce, Facel Vega, Lemborghini, Delahaye, Packard, Farrari, Massarati and Delage.

For many hisitors, food and lodging are highlights, with the two most successful living chels in good company with other culinary stars. "It is home to some of the finest hotels and restaurants in all of Europe, from Alain Ducesse's Le

Louis XV at Hôtal de Paris to Joří Robuchon at the Maraco's spell under Monaco's spell and is now a citizen. His three-star restaurant is the must-have reservation, with an elaborate the fis testing menu that varies daily and a dress code, not so be outdone, his rival Joří Robuchon, nich named "Chef of the Century," a persies all four dining venues in the metropole Hotal, His namesake Joří Robuchon Monte-Carlo is very related for a two-star, Robuchon also does the bar name, available on the hotefs algor friendly patio, a covered spot for the Ft race.

Monaco it clearly a place for living the good life. They love their Champagne in Monaco, and every function dinner begins with at least a glass, adds 5 hiels. The nest surant does not when a Champagne cart tableside when you are sealed, that's a red flag. Even the Fairmonts 24-hour lobby restaurant (with out-door seating for smoking) has an ide and bubbly laden cart. Rooftop bars can be found atop the Doesnographic Institute and most hotels. All are digar friendly.



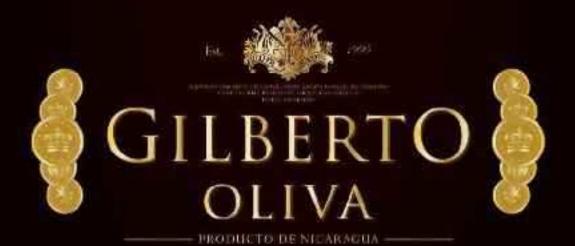
The prestigious Monaco Grand Prix is held antirey on the streets of the prioripality (above), Sebastian Year on abrates his victory in the congress.

Monaco never stops polishing, expanding and rethinking. When the disydecided to upgrade its yachs club, architect Sir from an Poster was brought in to design the new building, which looks like a ship on the waterfront. The most de Paris is just now wrapping up a major renovation that added a pool. The Metropole is endlessly upgrading and along with the four Robuchon exteries it now has a Lagerfield-designed pool area and a Givenchy spa—where the snack table offers

Joëf Robiethon resourcens. "People who come every few years feel like it's a different place because we're always transforming," days Batthyany.

Descriptions that would pigeonhole Monaco as "the classy wags," or "Dubal with soul," fall wall short of the resility. The place is more like the best of Paris, with the cultural, culturary and historical highlights distilled to their finast and set next to a beach—with a surprising authenticity. It's as if the country has not forgotten its roots. Strict rules require that all new builds contain affordable substitized housing for working-class residents. It's inspiring the way royalty moves among the common folls with minimal fuss, and day-trippers off-cruise ships are valcomed as warmly as Hollywoodstars. It's a perfect long weakend on its own, an anchor for a visit to Provence, the South of France or Italy, and a popular cruise destination. And for any of these, it's a magical spot. •

Larry Olimpied writes often on Lawel for Chair Amelianada.





Blanc



Reserva

This may blight Cillianta Oliva Resident horners that participes with their Rist machines and 2002.

This could have seen highly intudpesed by the frue enthusiases.



# churchills

Big. Begant and statery, the Churchi logar size commands your attention for well imper than an hour, in this category should be the category should be the category should be the category should be the category should go points or higher, an eyem supervising a side the demands of the day, Seven of the digars in this category should go points or higher, an eyem supervising non-considering for the Punch Alberton har from Higher the category should go points an intergeting combination of cobactors from Central and South America, the Domination Republic and Connecticut, it wouldn't be considered where the category and so the category and the category and so the category and so the category and according to the category and so the category and categ



### HONDURAS:

RINGGAUGE OF LENGTH 71(A)\*
FILLER HONDURAS HICARACUA

DOM REP
BINDLE U EA JOOHH 180AOLLAF

WRAPPER SCHADOR

### PUNICH AFTER DINNER

The imple of this dark Charch I is desire and chevy in texture. Its mathematid earth nates are burned by a materials and brown segar invocuses ().

LES-2538 LLK: N/A ETRENCTH: Modum-Rail

93



# NICARAGUA

MANAGE POTADOS BINDES DICARACINA PRIME RICARACINA FINE CAINCE AO FENELH LA

# OLIVA SERIE V MELANIO CHURCHILL

Miles pails are not replaced that density in the second of the second of

92



# NICARAGUA

BINDER HIDGER FR BINDER HIDGER FR BINDER HIDGER FR BINDER HIDGER FR BINDER HIDGER BIND

# PAPPY VAN WINKLE TRADITION

CHURCHILL

Rich and spiky from the start, first cigar's opened draw shows big nates of 4 monds, carame 4 of wood. The colfee bean finish is one and rich.

LIST 523,50 LLK 2 N/A STRENGTH: NAS JM-Fall

92



# NICARAGUA

BANDER UICHROOR BANDER UICHRACHA BANDER HICHRACHA BING GAUCK SO LENGTH F\*

# SAN CRISTOBAL REVELATION TRIUMPH

The box pressed form gives this Churchi is rectangular apparament. It's a hearty-eight that has the smokiness of 4 Sumaus bear coffee, daily red wine notes and a bit of carame.

LISA.68.75 ILIRANYA STRENGTH: Need un

92



# NICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 90 LENGTH 71 (4)\*\*

FELLE HICARACUA

BINDEE RICARACUA

WARPINE HICARACUA

# BRICK HOUSE CHURCHILL

Earthy and codery with clear, zesty notes of creange pecand citrus that each to a gradual cracker finish in USA.57.00 ULKANYA STRENGTH: NACAM 91

II Surrogate	NICARAGUA BINC GAUGE 47 LENGTH F- FRUER NICARAGUA BINDBE HICARAGUA WRAPPER MEXICO	SURROGATES SATIM GLOVE A box pressed Charatil with an area form and open draw, but obtainy as posts are complemented by notice of coffee, choose are and carame. US2.59.00 UK2.N/A STRENGTH: Medium-rail	91
	NICARAGUA BINC GANGLATI LLNCTH P FILLER RICARAGLA DOM REP RANAMA BINDER BOLADOR WEAPAR MEXICO	MICALLER EXPERIENCES LA CREMA  Achurchi with an area and draw and burn. Each pa fill shows an earthy, settlery quality along with sweches of ants and choose also. The finish birts of cinearms n.  LESSETS JOD LERS NYA STRENGTH: NAS JON-Fall	90
R.A.Jai	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BING CAUCH TO LLINGTH FO FILLER DOM REP BIN DLE DOM REP WRAPPER DOM REP	AGING ROOM QUATTRO F59 CONCERTO A box pressed Charchi with access, even hurn. Note: of wood and excherate accommand by spice and others, though the finish is a bit short use and a way a strength; mademail	88
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EING GAUGE 48 LENGTH FY FILLER DOM REP BIN DER DOM REP WKAPPLE DEA JOOHH BECADLEM	ARTURO FUENTE AÑEJO RESERVA NO. 48 Adark medians covered in give space near the basel.  Note a wandy, earthy smalle with some last lines; and a menthal finish;  LESS 1125 LESS N/A ETMINIST H. Modeum Fell	88
	MANABLE DEN TOORR ZHADE BINGEN MEXICO BINGEN EN TENGTH FY MENABLE DEN TOORR ZHADE	CANIEL MARSHALL BLACK LABEL CHUR CHILL The lighty band, bland insupport of this sign rish restend over the mild, rusey and they quelities of the smotte, which a so leaves faint impressions of cours and wood; useasso like by a strengtherwald in	88
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FING GAUGE TO LENGTH FY FILLER DOM ELF HICARACUA BINDER RICARAGUA WRAPFER ICUADOR	LA GLORIA CUBANA CHURCHILL  Roughly consuruced with 4 stappy cap, this is a pre- dominantly mathery methy crostwells commissory mineral socies and 4 sharp, chareod wood finish,  LECTRIA LIKENYA STARMETH: Modern	88
	U.S.A., EING GAUGE OF LENGTH FY FALLE HICARACUA BINDER HICARACUA WARAPARE HICARACUA	TATUME RESERVA SW There's a flore more underscoring this Charchill's pupping and spicy cardiano migratiles, which and so a woody floish. The draw is a bit firm but delivers substantial sample.  US2.513.00 LLR2.N/A STRENGTH: NASAM-Fail	88
The state of the s	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EING CAUCE TO LENGTH FY HILLE DOM REP WRAPPER ICUADOR	WILLIGER CUELLAR CON NECTICUT KREME CHURCHILL Thereby draw of this Churchi produces at softwarry smalte with trins of wood, each and aweed no ugas, though the fields is charry. USC.6680 URC NYA STRENGTH: NAS Medium	88

Few world choose a coronal as their go to organisize, but the cidy shape makes for a perfect shorter smoke. The Cuban conduct forces coronal vide a is a transcribed vide of any orange on go was not, for Class Andreas coronal vide a standards, our coronal category covers organis between § of 4 to 6 in their ong. 13 ring gauge col.45. Do y four scored go points or righer. The Dominican Romany Julieta Category with a store of 90 points, With a suggested recail price of \$6.75. Its also a payred. Cubars Compassing of I compassing a payr of well-and or other control Dominican chronic. The Antonio Fivence Don Carlos No. 1 and the Montecrisco Where Montecrisco Court scored go points.



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FILLER DOM REP BIH DLE DOM REP WEAPPER INDICATESIA

# ROMEO Y JULIETA 1875 CEDRO DELLIXE NO. 2

This ame covered bigs they never of nonget, pictochic and a monds to stiffed with eathery in land to me. Rich and exegue to me. Rich and exegue to the LECTION LIKENER. AT MINISTREMONER.

92



# CUBA

RINGGALGE 42. LENGTH STIPS!

PILLER CUBA
BINDER CUBA
WRAPPER CUBA
BOX DATE COTOBER 2015

# COHIBA SIGLO II (TUBO)

Distinct notes of bether become evident on the first part, for evend by an earthy tanginess, a hint of orange events add evend a choice are finish. Rich and delicious, U.S. H/A U.K. (24.50 - STRENCTH: Modern Part

91



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGALGE 44 LENGTH STATE
FILLE DOM REF
BINDER DOM REF
WRAPPER CAMLESON

## ARTURO FUENTE DON CARLOS NO. 1

Though covered in a day, off-on a red wrapper, this dgar draws and hume baself's y, offering a nextly, failly smalle with a ranch of sour cherry and honey like finish. LLES FRES LLKS N/A. STARACTA: Modern Pail

90



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGAUGE 44 LENGTH STITE FILLER DOLL BLP HICARAGUA BINDER RICARAGUA WRAPPER KUADOR

# MONTECRISTO WHITE MONTECRISTO COURT

Covered in a textbook, go den brown stade of medio care wrapper. The down is firm, but self imparts a creamy, flora smaller that picks up a graham cracker onto and mild carthiness.

LEE \$10.00 LEXENJA STRENGTH: Modum

90



# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RINGGALGE IS LENGTH STYE!

FILLER HICHRACUS DOM REP

BITTOER DOM REP

WRAPPLE DES GOOGN BECADILIS

# DEBONAIRE MADURO SAGITA PETITE LANCERD

A near to acknown with a piglai cap. It has a brownia its, coopequeity betweened by ground collections and a tangy, chany finish, US2.68.74 ULK2.N/A STRENGTH: NAGUM-Fall 89





RINGGALGE 44 LENGTH STITE! FILLE COM REP BINDER DOM REP WINDSHIP DE A JOOHH BECADLING

A rough looking eigenwith a geary wrapper and give spoks. His light want to make a become bready and berbal before curning earthy, though the finish is a Hill caochairí na c

USC.59.15 U.R.: M/A STREMETH: MAIN

86



# **MICARAGUA**

RINGGALGE AT LENGTH STITE PRIME HICHRACUA BINDER BRAZIL MEXICO MARAPPER MEXICO

# TABAQUERO HAMILET PAREDES CORONA

Heary black in appearance, this opens is a sweet, earthy same teneonyling blints of order, loast and a oo a like Saish.

USE ISS UKENJA STRENCTH: Modum-Pall

86

# corona gordas

There's a reason why coronal gordan (also known as coros) have become one of the organ world's most popular curet. They are fairly for, but not blank the mingly to, and they have continenable out not with analysis a length. On copiofchat, the gold by level is superby Twelve of the organs in this category scored go powers or highest and with the lewest score at \$8 points, there is no about right in the entire bunch. These copper the charts at go points, and each of them are well-known to the digar-smoking outlier, Joya de Micaragua, M., Upmann from Cuba and Ashton 1956. From the Dominican Report is, If this review is any parameter, at share to go before given a coronal gordal.



RINGGALGE 52 LENGTH FILLER NICARAGUA HOND BINDER NICARAGUA HOND WRAPPER HOND	OF THE CARMED SET OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE
RINC-CAUCE 14 LENCTH FILLER BINDER WERN PPER BOX CAPE DECEMBER	CUBA af oacos been before sadden y turning piquent with 4 CUBA (Abahara pepper spike) CUBA USC NYA ULKO (3420 STRENGTH: NAd Jm-Fd)
NICARAL SINC CAUCAL SI LLICO FRAME HICAR SINOME HICAR WEARPER FICAR	Width The superb draw of this we made signs offers a bod 90 with white paper, ask and cooks nates, interspersed with 1004 touches of sail and a floral finish.
DOMINICAN REPURINGAUGE 48 LENGTH FILLER HONDURAS HICARY DEM REP PERU US A FILED ON BRINDER HE WEAP PLE DOM	STATE IN THE PROPERTY OF THE P
NICARAN RINGGALGE 90 LENGTH FALAR HICAR BINDER TICAR 12/84 PAIR HICAR	s ye. An ed with a rounded head and uncut from latitle puffs 90 to CDA are strong and eathery with flore undertones before with the safety with the safety and a hier of chaos are.
RINGGALGE TE LENGTH PILLER BINDER WEAPPEE BOX DATE GOTGBE	CUIRA of first to become, where and note that are becaused by  CUIRA sweeter souther of cereme and gingers sup.  CUIRA USE N/A U.K. 2000 STRENCTH: Modeum
NICARAA RINGGALGE 90 LENGTH I FILLER HICAR SINDER TICAR WEAFALE HICAR	is per This robusto has a cour many, nutry character with sally ICUA hints of mather. Though covered in a rough verapper, it's visus much testier than it dolly.
MICARAM EING CAUCE SA LENG FALLER HICAR BINDER TICAR WRAPPER ICLL	H 6' An e ming y box peer ed diger with e these scent cap.  CUA The creamy, multy a make carries a lanch of clineamon  soun and a yearsy, is read dough finish;

# figurados.

Figurados, or shaped digars, pend colbe better chain average, so we were surprised colrate only four digars go points or higher in this paper or case east. The copisconing digar of the group was the Alec Brailley Black Market Ettal to This is a new version of the company's Black Market braild, made in Nicaragula rather than Hondaras; it's a stronger timotal made in to full in body, and it provides a made brail for the times to taggested metal price of justice made. So, The Arcuro Fuence Hermingway Classic has been consistently suiperbished the 1986s, and it's a standout smoke made with Camerood wyapper. A La Fior Bloch introduction and a high specified your data out our doc.

	NICARAGUA RINCCAUCL 11 LLNCTH 61/12/2 FRUER RICARAGUA MHOLR NICABAGUA HONDURAE WRAPPER RICARAGUA	ALEC BRACKEY BLACK MARKET ESTEL! TORPEDO A rick-combination of sway and sweet, this oily torpedo is could with methy, notice to another by undercurrents of relatin and cooce. Delicious and satisfying.	93
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  EINGGAUGE 46 LENGTH F*  FILLE DOM REP  WRAPPER CAMERDON	ARTURO FUENTE HEMIN GWAY CLASSIC  A cag, double repered perfects with a superb direct for to actly, woody que this much harmonious y with notes of rea, out how and careme; An elegant eigen.  LES 1935 LES NYA ET NINCTH: Modern	92
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EINGGAUGE SA LENGTH 6' HILLE DOM REP WRAPPER ICHADOR	LA FLOR DOMINI CANA DOUBLE LIGERO OHISEL Fashional with a wedge shaped head, this we muste figuredo is uplayed baid with also of seitler natered some woodiness. The timbsh is rich and hearly, LISC.59.70 LLRC N/A STRENGTH: Fell	91
Parties of the state of the sta	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RINGGAUGE TE LENGTH BIRAT FILLER DOM REF HICARACUA PERU BIH DER DOM REF WEAPPER DICARAGUA	MONTECRISTO GRUPO DE MAESTROS PRIVATE BATCH III BELLOOSO This dry Égussion agens the parate with Sirry clear eates of cather, wood and entercod berto. There is a right purpormint sing on the finish; LLS2.616.00 LLR2.87A — STRENETH: MAGUM	90
	NICARAGUA RINGGALGE SA LENGTH STYES FILLER HICARAGUA BINDER HICARAGUA SAMPME HICARAGUA	DON PEPIN GARCIA CUBAN CLASSIC 1970  A ight and many somedowith plenty of a mond contest a touch of vanilla bean and awardy finish. Tasty and continuent.  LECTRO LIKENYA ET NENCTH: Modern	89
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RINGGAUGE TO LENGTH 41/2* FALLE HICARACUA BINDER TICARAGUA DOM REP WRAPPER ICUADOR	EL TROVADOR PETIT BELICOSO The earthy smake of this short, hos present figureds also conveys to aches of coop nutland wood he form a subtraction of maczipan on the finish; the 17.75 (LK: N/A - ST NENCTH: Modeum	89

	CUBA RINGGAUGE SZ LENGTH 43/4* FILLER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA GOX BAFL APRILIDIS	MONTECRISTO PETIT ND. 2 (TUBO) This short figurade samples a bit het and fast, showing a bickery and mesquive character 4 mag with earthiness, sweet character and a grassy finish.  US2 n/A ULR2 (24.20 - STRENGTH: NASAM	89
	NICARAGUA RINGCAUCL 11 LLNCIH 51/2* FRUER ITICARAGUA BINDER HICARAGUA WRAPPER ITICARAGUA	PADRÓ N 6000 This box presend pyramid has a tangy start that such to a mostly new sanate with trinur of lipprice, dark to as a series like times.  LISC.68.10 LIKE NACE STRENGTHE MAG JM	89
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RINCCALCE TE LENGTH 61/2: FILLER DOM REP BIH DER DOM REP WRAPPER BOLADOR	DAVIDOFF MILLENNIUM BLEND SERIES PIRAMIDES These organed seperand tip gives this surpeduse dis- matic appearance. It desire and be missive by, showing a spity passe of white pepper, selfison and carde more with earthiness and a flinty finish. USC 525 50 U.S.C. N/A STRENGTHOMAGUM	88
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SINC CAUCE TE LENGTH BIFF PALAR HICARACUA WARAPPER BEARLE	E.P. CARRILLO ELENCOS ACTO MAYOR Avery defit sorpedo with a southy-wrepper.  Males of coffee bean and earth become revealer, but the finish is a bit day.  LECTROS LIKE HIJA STRENCTH: Modum-Fell	88
	MANABRE DEN TOORH ZHADE BINDER MEXICO BINDER	MACANUDO CAFÉ DUKE OF WINDSOR Of 1 are seeping through the wrapper of this pointy algor, which has a conical bip. If the beauty smoke with genue poset of cover, canon pee and a cedary finish. USE INTO UKE NYA TETRINCTH: MAC	88
SON	NICARAGUA EING GAUGE TE LENGTH 6° FELLE HICARAGUA BINDER U SAJOONN BEGADLEAF U EA JOONN SHADE WRAPPER BOLADOR	ROCKY PATEL ROYALE TORPEDO The wrapper of this box presed be loss of a printing and smooth. The smooth is dense and obey with coffee, earth and a fill of derkichoodate, but the flavors become a bit model of: USC 511.50 UKC NYA STRENGTH: NASSUM-Fall	88
	MICARAGUA RINGGAUGE 60 LENGTH STIPE" FILLER HICARAGUA BINDER HICARAGUA MARAPARE HICARAGUA	CASA MAGNA COLORADO GRAN UNICO This diy figuredo deews and be no east y and exemy. It clarks suity and charp before notes of eats and exems eather in a chineral houry finish. LESSES LIKE H/A STRENCTH: Modum-Fell	87
	EAHAMAS RINGGALGE 48 LENGTH 71/8* FILLER OCETA EICH HICHRACUH HICH DU RAS BIHDEE ICUADOE WEAFFER DUSTA EICH	GRAYCUFF CHATEAU GRAND CRU SALDMON A arge, ong periods with corons and tapers. The draw is right, and first pulls are now by musy before bines of out, a monds and a flinty binish. US2.626.00 UK2.N/A STRENGTH: NASUM-Fall	86

# miscellaneous.

The Misse anexes category covers a wide range of smolles, so it's loce surpresentative casting has a wide range of covers. Now 85, points to 93. Active copie to the Lactical by A.J. Revisiones, yet another example of the superbiologist being made by this rising star from Nicaragua. Two of our favorite sin aller simple Padrón Seine 1926 No. 15 and the Missecristo People invition, come 95. Close behind were continued the best by obuding a brand I in such and the much larger Missecristo, Microthe 83-point performance by the Partagás Eulebra. This Euban curiosity, three the terebes or aller and one of the partagás and characteristics of the partagás and characteristics.

NICARAGUA RINGGADOL 10 LLNOTH 3 1/1/2 FRUIR NICARAGUA BINDAR HICARAGUA WRAPPER BOLIADOR	LAST CALL BY A.J. FERNANDEZ CHIQUITAS A than, transleger with an uncut foot it's a sceny, as by same to fortified with cheep, earthy notes and it severy, settlery finish; this 1436 this hype of NINCTH: Medium fell	93
CUBA RINGGALGE VE LENGTH 43/2 <sup>3</sup> PILLER CUBA BINDER CUBA WEAPPER CUBA BCZE DATE APRIL 2014	MONTECRISTO PETIT EDMUNDO (TUBO) Sweet and sweetywith a his ancel, elegant interplay of mathemy notes, coling a situand a dark choose in finish, The dawn is a his financi LLC: H/A LLK:: [10.10] ETRENCTH: Modern-Pail	92
NICARAGUA BING GAUGE 45 LENGTH 41 FALLE HICARAGUA BINDER NICARAGUA WAN PALE HICARAGUA	PADRÓN SERIE 1926 N.O. 35 A small box pressed mini robusto with a min direct that imports an earthy smollerwith lossly, facility an idles and a mineral finish.  LECTION CLASHYA ETHINGTH: Modern-Pail	92
CUBA RINGGAUGE SA LENGTH SERVI PILLER CUBA BINDER CUBA WRAPPER CUBA BOX DATE JULY 2017		92
MICARAGUA RING GAUGE 44 LENGTH 41 FELLER HICARAGUA BENDER TICARAGUA MARAPALR MEXICO	(LLUSIONE 68 MADURO  So id so the souch, this time lookane has an open; substitution draw that layers the politically a mealy, earthy sand he be accord by him of ginger, iconice and a toffer receivers.  LISO.6630 LIKONYA STRENGTHORAL	91
MICARAGUA RINGGAUGE SA LENGTH ALPA PILLAR HICARAGUA DOM RAP BINDER HICARAGUA WRAPPAR ICUADOR	MONTE BY MONTECRISTO  A) FERNANDEZ ROBUSTO  A chart, fat, beautifully crafted eiger that during is trany soles a footfee boan and chacolaire. Hinto a foarmes and claim precided mineral liter thinks.  LISS 51123 LIKE N/A STRENGTHE MAG JIM-Fall	90



# robustos

Short bediscout, robust as befor or name, the plump but diminiutive robustors one of the most popular organistics in character at These coverable powers sense as wer competity and some get in a swort postage, was for most sociations. A half dozen of them scored go points, typing for highest score in the disease of Among them are the La Amona ADN Dominicana Robusto, an intriguing Dominican timete powered by the and own of analy oldebactory. This eaf is twisted into a hard log, and is cypically simpled in a pipe, but La Amora uses a bolofic in this bend, adding a winglest case from the Dominican Republic control of the got come from a mix of escap issue, anger organizations and smaller boundary brands. La Alianza is a newer smoke from longtonine organizations and each postage that a case of the form of the Form it a time to the made by young digarinations (and finished with an unconfood). San Locano is from A.J. Fernandez and Viale, a twy brands, once was above the biol. Sign Council organization.



#### **MICARAGUA**

BINDER MICHAGOS HATTE HICHRACHA FING CAUCE SO LENGTH 5.

#### CAIN DAYTONA 550

Deeped in a coen weapper, this digardness and burns, particity. Woodsy undertoines of earth and ook are entired to see a few cood by some of apple cides, cinearman and dried fruit.

LECTION LIKENYA STRUCTH: Modum Pall

90



#### MICARAGUA

RINGGAUGE 48 LENGTH 41/E\*\*
FELLE HICARAGUA
BINDER RICARAGUA
GYBAFRIE HICARAGUA

#### GUARDIAN OF THE FARM RAMBO

Rolled with an encet foot, this short value to exhibit a mily, woody character with underconvents of star union, coffee and face nat.

LLE-17.00 LLK: N/A STARNETH: Modum-Pall

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BINDER DOM REP HILLER DOM REP WRAPPER SCHADOR

#### LA ALIANZA NATURAL ROBUSTO SELECTO

The woody case of this of yeather to it fromed by notes: of condy-council a monds and contry barnyard, change the finish is a bitch-ony.

USCURED LIKE MAY STRENGTH: MAG JM-FAT

90



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BINDER CAMEROON
BINDER CAMEROO

#### LA AURORA ADN DOMINICÂNO ROBUSTO

M. Loothy rehusto that naver warm, tousty impressions on the passe before intensifying to show border naves of one that black pepper and a coffin tour finish. USA-67-25 ULKANYA STRENGTH: Fall 90



#### NICARAGUA

SWIDSE BEARAGUA FILLER METABACHA HONDURAE BING GAUGE TE LENGTH TO

#### SAN LOTANO REQUIEM MADURO ROBUSTO

Striking y durk and how presend, this rebusto stores an earthy passe of coops, or fice been, raising and a fudgy faith. The draw is a bit from.

LESS BOOD LEADINGS STRENGTH: NAS JIM-FAI

90



#### TOP SCORES, VALUES AND STRENGTH | BLIND TASTE TEST NO. 143

#### TOP SCORES



93 Alec Bradley Black Market Estell Torpida Nicerages - \$3.75 - Figurado - Medium-Fu



93 Last Call by A.J. Fernandez Chiquitas Nicaragus + \$4.50 • Miscar appears + Medium-Fe



93 Ponch Affer Dinmer Honduras - \$5.89 - Churcht - Medium-Fe



92 Artisto Fuente Herningway Classic
Dominican Republic • \$9.55 • Figurado • Medium



92 At Mon Virgin San Groese Robusto
Do minican Republic - \$11.25 - Coece a Goed s - Fe



92 H. Upmana Magnum 46 (Tubo) Ca ba • £23,60 • Corona Gorda • Madiam-Fa



92 Nya da Nizaragua Amazana Gran Res. Rabesta Grande Nicaragua - \$9.30 - Coeona Goeda - Medium-Fu



92 Moelecristo Petit Elimundo (Tubo) Calbo : £30,90 - Misse o neces - Mediúm-Fe



92 Office Serie V Malario Churchill Nicerages - \$14,00 - Churchill - Medium



92 Padeón Serie 1926 Nie.35 Nicarage a +\$11.70 • Milisse amesus • Medium • Fu



92 Páppy Ván Winklé Tradition-Charcháil Niceagus - \$23.50 - Charchi - Medium-Fu



92 Remeo y Julieta sē75 Cedro Delaze No. 2 Do minican Republic : \$6.72 : Corona : Madium

#### TOP VALUES



93 Last Call by A.J. Fernandez Chiquitas Nicarage a + \$4.50 + Misca | angus + Medium-Fe



93 Pench Aller Dinner Honduras • \$5.89 • Chuschi • Mediten-Fe



90 Cain Deylone 150 Nicarage a 456.10 - Robusto - Media m Fu

#### MILDER CIGARS

BB Leén Jimenes Ne.4

Dominikas Republic + \$ 6.14 - Corons - Mild-Medium

88 Macanado-Café Dake of Windsor

Dominikas Republik • 19.19 • Figurado • Mild

88 Villiger Cuellar Connectical Kreme Churchill
Domini kan Republic • 1 6.80 • Churchi • Mild-Madium

86 Ashloe Aged Madere No. 20
Dominikas Republic • \$9.15 • Corons • Mild

86 La Barba Sicanore 5 e 30 Domini kan Republic + \$ 5,60 + Robusto + Mild-Medium

#### MEDIUM-BODIED CIGARS

92 Arturo Fuerde Hére ingesty Cléable

Dominique Republic - \$9.55 - Figurado - Medium

92 Olica Série V Malbaio Churchill Nicereges - \$1400 - Churchill Mediem

92 Rómáby Juliátá (875 Cád ró Dálusé Nó. 2 Dominicas Repaibic - \$ 8,72 - Cosos a - Mediam

92 Sán Cristabal Révalation Triumph Nicaragus - \$5.75 Charchi - Medium

97 Brick House Churchill Nicereges - \$7.00 - Churchill - Medium

#### STRONGER SMOKES

92 Ashton VirginSun Grown Rebuste

Dominican Republic + \$11.25 • Corona Gorda • Fe

92 Puppy Van Winkle Tradition Churchill Nicaragus • \$23,80 • Churchill • Madiam-Fe

92 Qual d'Orsey No. 54 Cubo « 14.00 8060 » Missan pagons « Madinm-Fe

97 La Fier Cominica na Double Ligero Chind Dominicae Republic • 19.70 • Figurado • Fu

90 La Acrosa ADM Cominicano Rebaste

Dominican Republic • 17.25 • Robusto • Fu





# LA FLOR DE YNCLAN

TOBACCO

-14-0-13-

TOP 25
BEST CIGARS OF
2017

10

CIGAR AFICIONADO



SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:

Cigara Are Not a Safe Alternative to Cigarettes VILLIGER
VILLIGERCIGARS.COM FIRE

## connoisseur's corner

A TASTING OF VINTAGE CIGARS



Manne 55 a reache lesser known, ama les sit legs of the obiquitous Montecrisso Mo. 41.

This we legal examp a comes from a box of 15, which looks similar to made in day boxes, but a cover look shows the far thicker id, a der Cuban are see and the absence of the "Habanas" sticker on the upper right hand corner of the box. The diminutive eiger, with its a uning choosate brown wrapper, fits nice y into your fingers and has an elegant look. The sample is de iclous, the draw sary and open from the first pull. While the little eiger is many to years oid, it brims with flavors of iconion and every number of wooderin eiger that de ivers phenomena flavor in a very ama package, therein R. Shonker



# 96 BOLLVAR ROYAL CORONA (2006) This Bo wer's from the same virtuge that was named Gear of the Year. More than a decade are, it's set a rich amoke, though earth, coffee and mather are now in the background! Neutriness has saken content tage, showing pistochie, a are not and have not, brought together by a crearry him of nonget tweetoers. We predicted that this olgan was diget better with age. We were right. Congoy Morsola



HOVO DE MONTERREY
EPICURE NO. 1 (1991)
I sook this sim, elegant amake from a cabinet
of 50, where it's been patiently a suping for
more than 29 years, it sookgeed it you the
flame, and had a one ow flamer at first, with a
light a mond quality. Later, a wonderful souse of
to my and graham cracker amaged, a print ad
with a spech of cardinon, the finish, it pleasant,
a signat and augments y halacted sanata.
Could Soveria



94 ARTURO FUENTE AÑERO S.S.S. SHARK MO. 77 (2007). A derk, imposing figuredo with a derk and too thy broad and wapper. It was a mathemand peoper in its youth, but in yours of age have tempered its strength. It takes on a coccuration at the same, then shows name ighter binus of that of eather quality. The finish bases to uch of sweetness mixed in with the hearty wood. It's still strong, but not the untired of power hause it was so years ago. Dorid Sorono

CIGAR AFICIONADO'S

# BIG SMCKE LAS VEGAS HH H





	TOP SCORES OF 2017	
45	COR Da ESP 080 GO	CJE4
84		Down Rap
	Pagyor 1954 Arthversary Seves Ford Rathra	Newages
	Padrón Tor e 1936 No. 2 Natura	Newspas
94	Romed you less short Chartel Architectus Axis Hund Tare	Ngarayaa Ngarayaa
96		D-OTTO ROBO
-2	Action Symmetry to occu	Dom Rap
1550	Jaya Black Nactarna	N-Caragida
2.2		Hondara
96	Now Word Pero Regard Para	Nicaragea Nicaragea
755	PAGNORI GODO NAGUNO	N-COMBO 44
30	Padrón Talia Americany Series Imperia Materia	Newspan
95		M-Ceregida
96		Cuba
95	T MANUEL STREET STREET STREET	N-Caragida Mandana
95		Hondara: Dam Red
62		Newson
92	A 90 Blad by Past Emittergo Lanceva	HOROWAN
•		
	Magazinia vola Proyegita	D-om RNo
92	Action V vs a Sun Grown Re-cost NS 1 Action V vs a Sun Grown Rebesto	Dom Rep Dom Rep
_	BO WAY BE COSO F MO	CJC4
	CAD to a Can	Hondara
92	Case Fernandez Agendissa Lear Forgedo	U 5.A
62		Newspas
	CUE PV400 SOXS	Newagea
92		Dom Red
	E may Fifth F est 30 Years Select Promode	Hondaca
	Encare Fourage	Niceragea
62	Sepressa Habano No. 4	Newspan
92		N-Cerag-da
#2 #2	Beard an of the Farm App of Specified Warped  Joya de Ricana de Destro Cinos Reserva	Newspan
31	Especia Forgedo	Newagea
92	Managrapa Na Z	CJCA
62	Hantocrate No. 3	Caba
92		Down Rep
62		Newspea
92 62		Nominger Nominger
92		NCMAGNA
62		Исжерал
92	Pappy van William Can Cheese	M-Collagida
-		Cuba
92 92		CJEA
92		Nicaragea Nicaragea
	Rocky Pate Specia Ad tion Roberto	Newspan
92		
	Sma Rabch F25 Canbaor	Dom Rap
	Romes yala eta Cherch	Cuba
92	Romad yuu leta Rare 11 Years Did 10 ft Tatuago Eab not Hop as	MACACH AZU
92	Tecuque La Meyros La Tver de 2015	NCMAGAA
•	The fidge Had use H sc e	Hondaca
92	TV n dad Talpes 6d clan L michael 2016	EJ64
-		Newspan
92 62	Update rown 54 h Grown 50 /0 to Vigor La For de Yealan Tarpada	Nom Rap
	SIL	

Again, it all cornes down to reliable data. Last year, every one of those set eights were evaluated by our panel of digar-shoking editors and underwent a blind tasting process. That means that each eight was stripped of its label (or labels) and affixed with a generic, name bened white band, see fore smoking, the editors know nothing about the digar's country of origin, the bland of sobacce contained inside on its price. This way, each eight was taken at face value and judged solely on its appearance, perform ance and, most important of all, les toste. The entire process is managed by a full time casting coordinator who goes out and purchases the eights from reputable retailers and high-end tobaccomists. He then creates a code and passes out the eights to each panelist for review. To be absolutely certain that the identity of each eight remains unknown, the casting coordinator is not a manager of the tasting panel.

We can't stress enough the importance of a blind testing process, and its one that we have employed throughout the entire history of this magazine, which does back to 1992. Knowing the identity of the algorizantand will semiously projudice the smoker—in both negative or positive ways—and affect the outcome of a score; Our method removes any possible preconceived notions and puts every digorion a level playing field. It is the only way to give an horsest, accurate and objective evaluation to a cigar.

But back to the data Of the 666 premium, hardmade digars we rated last year, 337 (or 36 percent) so red 90 points or higher on our 100-points calls. This special to the elevated level of the algors being produced today by the members of the hardmade digar industry. The quality of tobacco is very high, the blends they are crafting are superb, made with intriguing tobacco varietals. This high level of quality could be seen in 2016 at wall, when ay percent of the 637 digars made that year scored 90 points or higher. The industry has responded to the high demands of digars consumers, who are more discerning and sophisticated today than they ever have been.

which brings us to an even more focused category—the elite circle. Out of the 337 cigars that scored 90 points or higher, bt scored at least 92 points [see table, left], but only 19 cigars scored 93 points or higher. This choice-cut segment of 19 cigars represents the very best in algorithis ing for 2017.

Only four cigars were able to reach the lofty height of 94 points, two of which are fricangular and both from the same producer—Padrón. The Padrón 1964 Anniversory Series Toro matural and the Padrón Serie 1926 no. 2 matural and two of Padrón sauper premiture branchs and serve as emblematic examples of how great fricangular tobacco can be. The 1964 line is named after the year that the late founder José Orlando Padrón started his eight company, while the Serie 1926 is named for the year of his birth. If the 1964 Anniversary line leans sweet, the 1986 tends to lean strong and spicy. Both are complex in their own way, yet maintain the rich qualities that examplify Padrón's house style. Consistency has always been a hallmark of Padrón as well. The Serie 1926 no. 2 was named Croar Americando's house style.

Also scoring 94 points, the Cuban Romeo y Julieta Short Churchili was one of the bast eigers to come out of Havana fast year. Habanes 5.A., Cubas marketing and distribution arm, has made the Churchill a brand within a brand, as there are now four



different sizes in the Romeo line that bear some variety of the Churchill name. However the one of distinction is the Short Churchill, which was also named the No. 19 digaro (2017)

The Dominican Republic also produced an exceedingly fine 94-point cigar—the Arturo Fuente Don Carlos Eye of the Shark, it was the only Dominican algor of 3017 to soon 94 points and wound up as Cross Apronous core Cigar of the Year. (A separate tasting is conducted for our Top 25, again with all the identifying cigar bands removed; those Top 25 taste test results are not included in this analysis.)

The Shork is exceedingly difficult to find, as are big-cubon Cohibas. The Cohiba Esplendido, a seven-inch-long, 47-ring-gauge smoke rolled in Havana, was the highest-scoring digar in any regular Croke American coffeight resident sea test, as 95-point according to a higher that only a nobe to schlave releasion season our roo-point acade, however, the big Cohiba failed to make the cut in the Top 25 special testing, showing an issue of consistency in this particular digar.

Poor wasther and district hed tobacco crops in recent years were reasons that digar lowers have had a difficult time finding certain Cuban digars, including the Esplendido. Rarer still have been Cohiba Behikes, which are so scarce in world markets that we didn't rate a single one in all of 2017.

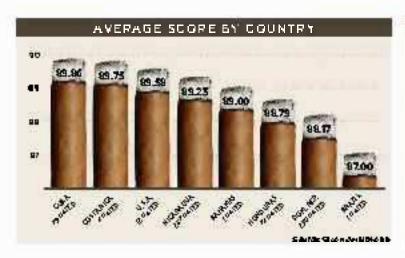
Micarogua dominated the tab SCORES OF 2017, HAS POSED 267 IN JUST 15guan cigars in 2017—more cigars than from any other country—and they accred on everyge of E9.23 points, second place among those countries with 10 or more cigar. ratings in 2017. An impressive 41.2 persent of the releaseague naige is we roted scored 90 points or higher-110 cigars, far more than any other. country. Ten of the 19 digers that accred 93 points or higher (53 percent) ware rolled in micaragua, a teatament to the growing infrastructure of the country and its position as a leading producer of high-quality nes nel com a lators.

Nicareguen companies such as

Padron, Olive; My Fether, Orew Estate, Rocky Patel and A.J. Fernandes, among others, continue to release great brands into the premium market, more releaseguest algors on our top 25 came from fricerague than from any other country. There were 13, including five in the Top 10 alone; the Padron Serie 1936 ho. 3, Olive Serie V Belicoso, My Father The Judge, Guardian of the Farm Apollo Selection de warped and the Plasancia Alma Fuerte Generation V. Until now, the Plasancia family has been known primarily as the largest grower of premium tobacco in Central America. Previous attempts to create a premium eigar had been lackiuster at best, but the Plasancias kept at it until they finally made a great cigar—naturally, with their own tobacco.

Initiaragua is not only impressing with its quality of digars, it has also become one of the largest producers of premium digars for the united states, nearly neck and neck with the Dominican Republic in terms of holume. Decades ago, hiderague wasn't even part of the conversation. At one point, even Jamaica, now a non-endry in the digar business, overshadowed micoragua, moday, its fartilegrowing regions have accessed some of the best digarmakers in the world and in icaragua is in a truly enviable position.

Despite its crop problems and difficulties keeping humidors accled with certain high-profile cigans, cubs still scored the







highest average of any country, 8986. We rated 79 Cuban digars and 42 of them—53.2 percent—scored 90 points or higher. Among them were the Partagas Lusitania, which scored 93 points and wound up as the hout on digar the Top 25 list. Like the Cohibe Esplandido, Lusitanias weren't the easiest of digars to find at retail, especially in Cuba, due to the large size and the fact that large wrapper leaf wasn't as abundant as in previous years. The most consistent Cuban we rated was the Bollivar Belicoso Pino, which scored 92 points, while it didn't initially score as high as the Cohiba or Partagas in our regular tastings, it excelled in our Top 26 testing, maintaining consistency at a high level through multiple rounds. In the end it was named high 40.4 Cigar of the fear.

Costs Rich had the second-highest average soom by country (1975), but the small sample size—four digars—makes it difficult to give that everage much statistical importance. The same holds true for the single-digar we rated from the Bahamas, which scored 89 points.

-Cigars rolled in the United States, however, had an average



rating of 89.58 points, just behind Cubb. We rated a dozen digars rolled in the U.S. last year, and those high scores show the high quality of these smokes, such as the Tatuaja Cabinet Noelles (91 points, the only American digar on the 2017 Top 25 list), Case Permandez Aganors a Leaf Robusto (90 points) and the La Patina Collection Mr. Sam Corona (89 points), while the United States ministed as smallish producer of handmade digars, these ratings show how wonderful such digars can be most an made in Miant oritical surrounding a reas.

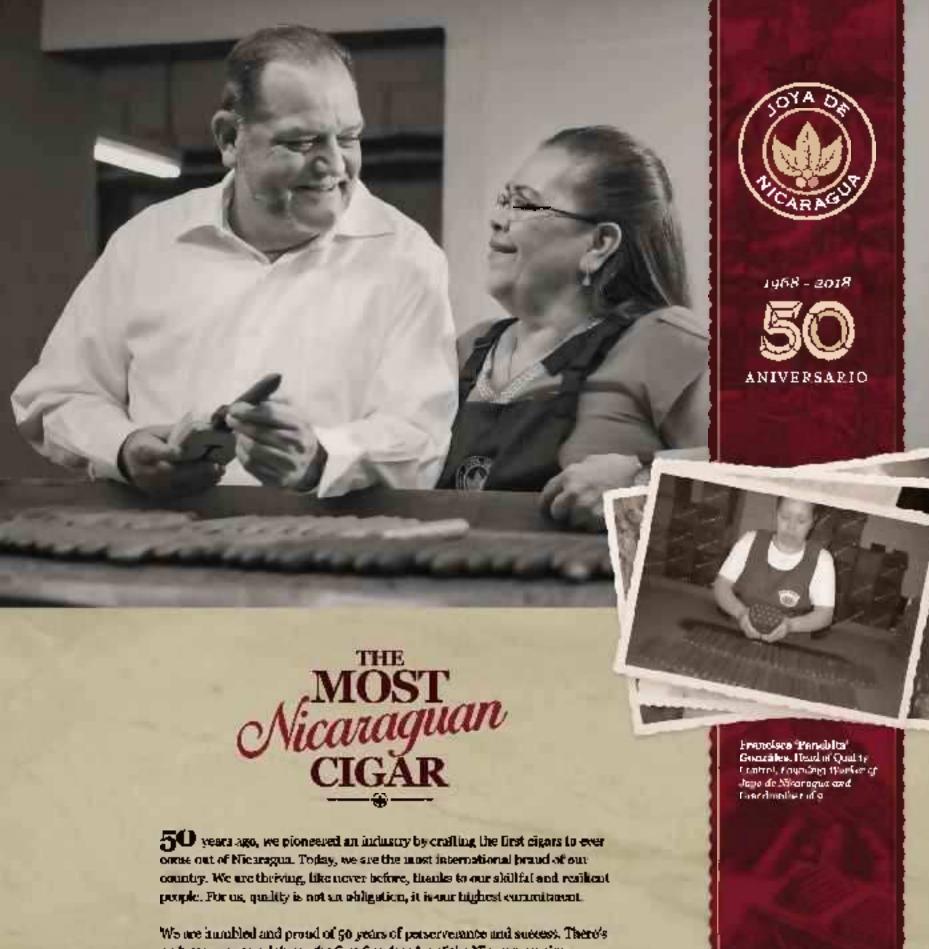
We rated 74 Honduran cigars last year, and they scored an average of 88.79 points. To anty-six of their (351 percent) scored 90 points or higher, Honduras did produce some top scoring cigars in 2017, such as the Alec Bradley Tempus hatural Centuria, CLE Prieto and the macanado respirado Churchill, each of which appeared on Cicar America acid. Listo (Top 28 Cigars for 2017.

CIDAR API-CIDAR OF ITEE 330 Dominican algors in 2017, no readigns from any nation other than Nichelgus. Dominican algors averaged 88.17 points—forms among the major producers—with \$2 of those algors scoring 90 points or better, or \$2.7 percent. The fro. 1 algor of 2017 is Dominican, as are many Dominican algors that rated 90 points—villigens to Flor de Yaclan, the Ashton Symmetry selloss and the Ashton Herriage Puro Sol Beliooso fro. 3. Interestingly, more than half of the highest-scoring Dominican algors from 2017 [there were 11 that rated 92 points or higher) were produced at one factory, Tabacalera A. Fuente y Cia., the factory owned and operated by the Fuente family—makers of the Cigar of the Year.

The single Brazilian digar we rated scored 87 points. White Broalf carcainly produces fore of high-quality sobacco—both Cuban-seed and native variatels—its lacking in digar production.

Regardless of country or tobacco blend, cigars are getting thicker and thicker. Churchills are larger, torcs are heavier and a by sos (also known as grandes) have moved from novelty to mainstream. Orandes—which we classify as any straight-sided digar with a ring gauge of 60 or more—have become so prevalent we had to give them their own category in 2013. That being said, the grande size hash's performed as well as others in our blind testings. Grandes sooned an average of 80.7 points.

The size format with the highest average rating last year was the panetels. We rated 15 of these slim smokes in 2017 and they turned in an average of 897 points. Panetelos are prized by connoissaurs for two reasons. Firstly, they represent the elegance of a bygone era. Secondly, the proportions alone ensure that the wrapper is the dominant flavor, not the blend. Panetelos are by no means top-sellers in algar stores, but, judging by our numbers, will usually reward the smoker with a unique experience.



We are immbled and proud of 50 years of perserverance and success. There's no better way to calebrate the first five decades of the Nicaraguan eight had started to recognize the people behind it all. Gracias, Panchita.

Er. Alejandro Martínez Cuerca Anatonia e Master Master Fábrica de Yabares Joys de Nicaragua, A.A. #JOYA50

(Mayarigara

www.jovacegare.com

#### CIGARS BY THE NUMBERS



#### Size You Should Stop Ignoring: PANETELA

These skippys makes are slow selects that they rective unswing becomes of ging from door scoring an everage 39.7 ps ares



### King Of The 90s:

An amount on 110 M careguenic persocored in the 90s assiyeer morethen eay other country Ten soored 95 pains or higher

#### Bang For Your Buck: HONDURAS

Cigara from this Central American country average \$8.96 before taxes \$1 est than Hicaragean smokes and every \$2 observed than organs from the Down mean Regula of

#### Pricey, But Worth It: AMERICAN SMOKES

Cgars to led a the U.S. don coome theap (\$1) 47) but they post some of the highest average soones by country 39 \$3 points



#### Ghost In The Humidar: DOUBLE CORONA

A superfus sections divined any a properately.

We reced only five a 2017

#### Size To Skip: GRANDES

While immersely popular 9-by-90 cigadrate among the owest-scoring smokes by size. To os (atalogical a gordas) are better cigadrate.

They are age 1.5 points big terri

Figurados socied quite well, especially when you consider how many we rate. A figurado is a shaped digar, so the dategory is immerse, and includes to reados, build coscs, double-tope and is alomonas, perfectes, any shape with a curve, taper or point, one rated statingurados last year, and they everaged 69.5 points—0.3 points lower than panetelas. If you look at the Top 25 digars of 2017, the top four one all figurados. It his is not a coincidence. Cigarmakers and to task only their top rollers with area dingsheef fine algorithment. Everything from shape to proportion to the precise placement of filters is carefully considered. Your chances of getting a superb figurado are more than just merely good—they we almost assured.

The double colons also is getting more and more difficult to find, as is clear by the small number we tested—a mere five samples. They exeraged well at 694 points, but with numbers so low, the double colons is frightfully close to extinction. Coron as seen't doing much better. Though the exerage was 694 points, we reconly looking at assumple size of 28 digars for the entire year.

Corons gord as (also known as toros) are a different story. You'd be hard-pressed to find a digar brand that doesn't have a corona gords or toro also of some stort in its line. It remains very popular, and we smoked 159 of them last year, more than any other size and 24 percent of our total. When the high number, their 89-point overage is quite impressive...

Cigars in the Churchill and miscellaneous categories tied with averages of 68.6 points, while grandes fared a little worse at 88.7 points.

Two estagories that with an average of EES points; lonadales and robustos. It's no surprise that we rated only 27 lonsdales [another size that's fading), but robustos remain quite popular and the third forgest category at 112 algors. The 29 petit coronas of 2017 averaged EEA points, only a hair behind, 116 alear that this bout and thick is in. The reason often alted for the popularity of thick eigers is almost universal; perceived value, ergo more abaseo for the dollar.

when it comes to value, you're most likely to get the best being for your buck if you buy Honduran. The everage price for a Honduran eiger is \$6.96, cheaper than any other country (save for pract), which only had one eiger rating in 2017), Honduras might not be as hot as niceragus right now, but if you're watching your wallet, it's the smartest way toget the most out of your dollar.

are become a common clické of the day that \$10 is the socalled "sweet spot" for premium algars. In other words, it's the price-point that most algar manufacturers aim for in the U.S., as most consumers are willing to pay in the \$10 range for a good algar. Both Micaragua and the Commisson Republic have his that spot, or at least that range. Micaraguan algars average \$10.04. Dominican digars skew slightly higher, at \$10.85.

If you're a patriotic American, your love of country is going to cost you abit more. It abor is not urally higher in the United States than it is in Cantral America or the Caribbean, and our averages reflect this reality. Cigars made in the U.S., most of which are produced in Miami, average \$1.47. They're still less expensive than Costs Rics, with an average of \$13.24, and for behind the solutions at \$30.75, which really has only one major producer of premium cigars, Grayciii.

Cross Apricionado has historically reported Cuban digar prices in British pounds, a market that is more expansive than most (Switzerland and Cuba, for example) and cheaper than others (namely Canada). With an average of \$37.90 per digar (converted from British pounds), Cuban digars are not exactly for the bargain human, yet reciliense includencing and on them to have any trouble selling their stock. Underscoring this fact was the release of the Cohiba Talisman Edicion Limiteds for 2017, In the LLK, it retails for around 200, or about \$111. According to reports, first shipments of the digar sold out all most in needlately:

Antidatalf this data, the predominant thems here is quality, and this shouldn't be too much of a shock. It's been said many times that premium algars are enjoying a golden are right now. In this case, the clicke is correct and the numbers reflect this, recoragus is clearly on the rise. It dominated our yearly tasting in sheer numbers alone and shined quite brilliantly in the top sources of 2017. But the best news of all is that the finest algars are not limited to one particular country or one particular price point. Once you put nationalistic price and pro pagands saids, the numbers make it clear that there is a great eiger for almost everyone. P



# Can't Get Enough Cigar News?

Satisfy Your Insatiable Desire With Two Online Newsletters From the Editors of

aficionado





# A Seat On Cuba's Official Tasting Panel

Joining Cuba's eigar experts to evaluate blends for Havana's future eigars, ex coroon more



If a wife that employer electroned a would eavy, testing new to become the seat Gold be. Manuscrista an other fine Cuben deer.

couldn't believe what I had just heard. A Tobacco Research I nations of ficial had just told mather Cuba's new blands are often reviewed by a highly selective panel of testers from the top anyont factories and officials in the tobacco industry. "Really," I thought, "I've never heard of that panel!" Almost aim ultraneously I wondered, "would they ever let me inside one of those meetings?"

I saked immediately if I could attend the pone's realization, captaining with more than a little hubris that if any outsider was qualified to case algors, I might be that person. The people sixing in the room looked at each other, and I detected at least one roll of the eyes. Terho do you think you've kidding?" they seemed to say. It made sense. Why would the Cubans let a foreign journalist inside the costlegates to six in on a virtually secret panel with the eatherordinary power to judge and approve new digar blends? As well as anyone, I know that Habanos keeps its secrets about new digars as close to the vest as the nuclear launch codes.

However, no one said no:

That was 20th, For the next year, I kept politely inquiring about the panel, which is called the Comision maximal de Degustación, officially translated as the frational Tasting Commission. Or, in English shorthand, a tasting panel. I asked people in Cuba if they had heard of the panel. While several said yes, including one man who had been to one meeting, just as many had no firsthand knowledge of its existence, even those inside the algar industry. According to the scant details I was able to gather, the panel meets eight to 10 times a year, and not only addresses new blands, but from time to time, will test a factory's adherence to a particular brand's flavor profile.

Then, out of the blue, I got an e-mail, inviting me to join the testing panel's meeting on September 26, 2017. Between two hurricanes, and wornes about the lingering damage from those storms, I almost canceled the trip. But on Tuesday the 26th I found myself sixing with more than 40 other people on the covered patio of the Four Ways Sherston Hotel pool area in Havana. No restrictions, All on the record, I kept pinching

# This was not some randomly selected group of people who were pulled together. Each of the tables had tasters whose cumulative experience often exceeded 50 years.

myself as Luis Felipe Millanes, the director of quality control at Tabacube, the tobacco growing arm of Cube's eiger industry, explained that four eigers would be handed out, two different whofer or sizes, with two different blends each:

These algars have been rolled within the past month, relianes told the crowd as the first algar was passed out, a Magico vitale, a typinches by 52 ring, 25 had been rolled at \$1 Laguito, the home factory for Cohibs, Cuba's most isonic brand, and came out of a big, paper-wrapped bundle bearing a numeric code on a simple white head.

r pick up the algar, it looks and feats like a Cohiba, the brownish wrapper with just a tinge of red is emooth and oily. In front of me, I have a testing sheet that bears no resemblance so the casting sheets we use at Croak Apicionado. There are no points, and them are six categories used to rate the digard draw, aroma, flavor, strength, burn and general quality. Each category has seven subcategories. For drow, the seven range from excessive to very insufficient, in arones, Rayor, burn and general quality, the descriptors are excellent, very good, good, acceptable, regular, bad and very bad Strength ranges from very mild to very strong.

Let's be clear. This was not some randomly selected group of people who were pulled together for that meeting, my table included oscar Ricole, the

head of quality at Habanos S.A., and Baldomera Beker Rivas, a grisslad, long the Habanos amployee who is the head of the committee for special digar projects. At some of the other tables were the former head of El Laguito, Amaldo Ovalles, and the former head of the H. Upmann factory, Miguel Barzaga: Each of the factory tables had tasters whose cumulative experience often exceeded 50 years. A source told me that he had been a nember of the panel for years, and it was always made up of real tobacco people who took this task seriously.

As the smoke flowed fleely on the warm, humid Havana morning I was in heaven. For the first half hour, we smoked the first of the two magico blends. I judged it so have a firm draw, a wonderful aroma, good burn, very good flavor and slightly attengativength—overall a very good eight, milanes ancouraged the crowd to move on to the second blend after 30 milinutes. I found the second blend so be firm as well, but a batter eight than the first.

began. Tasters at each table stood and recited their impressions of the algor. At one point, after a controrian report on the strength, Milanes reminded everyone that all opinions were valuable and should be mapedied. Finally, after both blends had

been commented upon, Abdal Diss, the roller from El Laguito who created the digers for the commission's meeting, stood up and gave his own impressions, adding to a room full of chuckles "this is an excellent diger."

There was a short break for a small sandwich and a cold soda. The panel's arbiters do not allow coffee, a real sacrifice for eigensmoking, soffee-lowing cubans, because they believe it can after tastes. Then it was time to go back for more testing.

The next two digors were sublimes (6 s/2 inches by

54 ring) rolled in the Partagas Factory in Havano. Once again, each digar was pulled for approximately 30 minutes of smoking time.

As the basters stood to make their commence this time, they were asked. about their backgrounds, and I got on idea of just how long these people. had been working around digars. Odelayne Ponegue kod been a toster. for eight years) and a factory worker. for ES years, Borbaro Jovo, o stropping well-built man, had been a taster for to years Edith Sonches, a Partaglis employee, said she had been a taster. for 22 years. Leonardo Agustin Alamo, another Partagés taster, summed up his sublima by saying, "This is an elegant digar and it is stable from baginaing to and 🖺

The testers earn a spot at these tables by a monthly rating process

that judges how good a tester they are. The factory "team" for the commission costings can change from meeting to meeting based on the internal competition to judge who is the best. On this particular day, the majority were women.

Milanes ended the session with a hint at the results. There was a broad consensus for one of the sublime blends—the one that was a bit milder than the other—and for the second of the two magico blends, which was needlunt in strangth;—in both cases today, you have chosen the blend that we are looking for in these brands, "he said.

But he declined to tell the testers—or this journalist which bland was destined for which brand.

The chatter over lunch focused on what these digars could'be. Everyone agreed the magico was almost certainly for Cohiba, because it had been made at £1 Laguito, and a good percentage of all Cohibas are made there. But the sublime had people guessing, because the Partages Factory makes a number of different brands. In the end, the consensus was that because the blend was relatively mild, it was destined for a moyo de Monterley.

Habanos promised me they would reveal the details of each algor after they are released in 2018. #



Abde Diss from Havana's E. Laguito Factory, making the Cohibe colors, comments on a sest blend.



## moments to remember

Persenend is submissional Cook Arcia was postalament is a Remember Wardwide Puzz. Buy Eight Alexae, gold Foat New York Nit voorig. Oken is themse manuscrip remembed@mishirkan.com. To adecude odd in nu cap and Econ Arcia was cure. Soo jug cytig



Parent Beruscoper C & D of the PCA Budo ph W C or an information of Moor York Cay Cook Are a special served got them Mayor R. Shanban and Bro Transparent of an O of Parent Co & O oh in Parent Beach Cardens, Fords



During an even night die deut fand damarische erand fine hand is het die gart. Even Durine und Ausen Rechterente vorgest af friends highert is gibt night, as The Red Mear Lewis . Cabb of Seven Bridges, in Deuty Beach, fine du



On the I first service goes in a Beyan little gods on Breadon Removas Louis. If children and forming Scholman samples he act force by pulling on Cuban against noticing against summarphere in the Salatoga Hale on Havans.



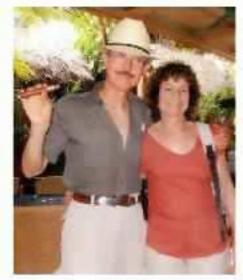
The Branco mi brothers to be trader how to commemorate in the bidge from ear. Butch this terraid beneal back for and second his rule of premium a grant sale e back of a she handle on his best back of a best for day.



Mark and Mars Harris than see gus marmens on h Bando ple Devech - the green grand one of connecting of the Queen More an object - as an exempt condition in grand part of the Queen More than one object.



Coord from the new years in proper faction is proper but consisting on Colors Cook but and properly have no accompleted consisting and properly have no accompleted consistency and properly on the second of Consistency and Consistency Confidency.



in Cultur you send to within you diese. Pur in Fra. Pugins imagbes a Bomeou alongs deshis or failfra. Wasman ar Residou metta Chora alle Hauaea.



Misseed the Years at commissions has a too be bed by bey ghing a player of Organ X cagain with bear further Channes in William Barner Powersy van a



Crossins Place Andress in regular to swedding day with a gard angode. David Andress William World Rein Esige of Thomas Cargod Anthony Worland Brian Born in Woodbury. New York



New years Quincy Serviced Minus in Lauray exposence are Culture Each build gare in the Dund to East air Seach Queenstancy Sections



Michiga and Juny Park savor Rocky Pain's The Edge Maband organs in her home on the swedding day in White Hall Mary and











34



nd fuente fuente ng n Manties

The second of th



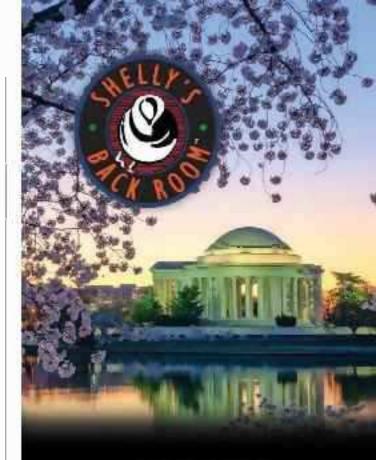
Beathers and following premition asis. I'm and B. Signich savar green om smotes critical by And Bradley Egyrs with expansiting in a leaving garme of gar in Newspap Beach. California



Devict Languagement in a free notes become a hear grant comment of an egypte by the grant of a comment of Colorson Management of the second paying a surgential of the free of the free ment of the free of the free Cary Talvaro



Scall Ashley commemorales his weddingso Brisson Van Zanien by ighling up ta Giora Cubana Serie R.B actic gars while hullounded by the odd and family in St. Michaels, Misry and



# A LEGEND AMONG LANDMARKS

A standard for cigar afficienados for over 20 years. Shelfy's Back Room is a cornfortable, yet still elegant, retreat in which to enjoy fine cigars and choose from a distinguished assortment of kingle malt and blended whiskies.

Lunch, dinner and late-night menus offer the perfect complement to your digar smoking pleasure.

A new, state-of-the-art continuous fresh air system will make your visit to Washington's best cigar tavem even betterl

Shelly's Back Room

1331 F. Street NW • Washington, D.C. 202.737 3003 • SHELLYSBACKROOM COM









French | m Reme and Jeff Heyman crosse the Brish is es in which yelling. Busy and Charlogher White spend some quality finites and some over and grant about the sun satisfaction Celebration Calebratic Stitutures. Calebratic and been and blomest and grant at Brasery Breaking in Lancaster. Calebratic





Cignic areas, and near yeards jett and jets as the areas has mendiated in unscared in proposition of the jets of the Hyan Key.
When Review and figure they West Figures are supposed they consent frames and form your decomposed they are the proposition of the supposed they are supposed to the supposed t



B. Geyden smally brilliading with Direc Grawnden. I'm Campite. Joe Calenda. A unitarie le Deun Freeman and Perer Walter in Victoria. But 44 Columbia.



Northing complements adaptor part and good friends believe have affine a par-Gary Boungain and Marry Shearer, philogram the little in Mengaline Menada.



Nate LaB at Bear and Ryle O step and Oak of Whiteombre at whice ghaing on a few permum or gate in deather Books Pase. Launge in Mile. Avenue Tobaccon up in Buffalo. New York



Mark Chapmain Janes Magy Andy Kolones and Ray Nagy argon lines Mari Ybor Cay his airch An are Francisco gare and a cafe con lechalas Ring Gorena Eigans and Cafe in Ybor Cay Florida



Members of the Columbian Lodge of Freemasons in Boston, Mainachuseus i ghrug o gars in The Meggo Shriners "Smoter" in Wilmington Massachuseus no benefit Shriners Hospins





Seems contain and Rudhe lifters in gla from Danu Poins. Ca form a vershalast fresh bandles of oights guides and diseasy from a robucco glump on in Caba



Lighting was greater of an influence of Para Thomas of the Yofang Thomas of the stay of the Semanger with the viring Tanzan a Mica.



On his worlding day from title mesh golfs on a gors with Dan Frose Type Sween. Jeff Breazte. Justin Javiese it in Desirables and Jeff Sweens of Flories as Sel Johns in Prymouth, left of gon



Marton Davids, Michael Brown and Brian Wong Yayor Cuban oigan after a day of diving in Cosumel Mexico



Hazamilinesh De Historia (mash Raigh Searc and Zell Residue serjey financigas in de Zell (er residue à la historia e Search e Meer York



Supplies have Sieve Bangs on in and fairmer. Bused board over a gard of access and Hoyo de Monterney organism his crussing in Austria Board star Crond Printess.

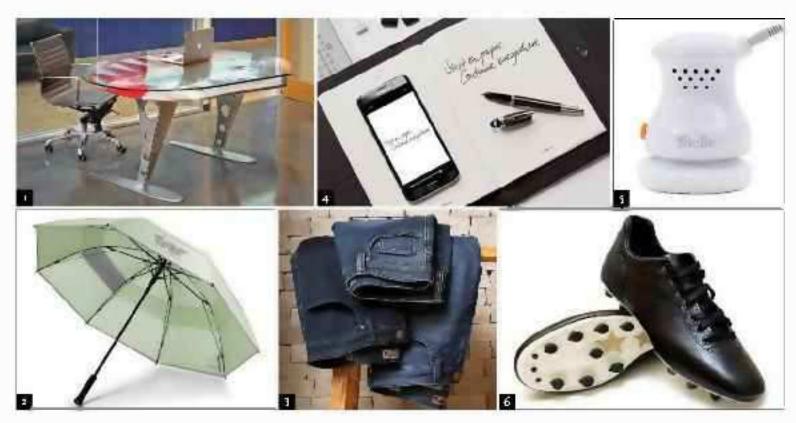
DGAR, ARCIDPADD \$554+10k h REW is published birmin by by 44. Shadon Communicania, Inc., Worlde of Plaza R. Saghih Andrea No. Fork MF (2017), \$20,1884-424. Provided per grand or Plaza Fork MF and an address making alliera FOST4ASTER. Address dranger and subsequent argument. DICAR, AR DIOPADD, 190, 284, 57467 Boons, 44. 1900 MI 162, call \$30,574-490. provided himming and Subsequent rate, \$449 per year, Counts, \$20,00pm year of subsequent forms of the forms of the forms of the forms. The other larges, \$10,00,000 Milliam rate of the forms of the for

referenced and normalized to the assembler and women's All Turners involved detailed and only the street in the assemble and others. All nights a few assembler and the rest of the assembler and the street in the assembler and th





# made for you



In a world of fast food and one-size-fits-a sensibilities, how often does something fee made especially for you? The "Made for You" section crebrates those items that are created with such high quality of hand workmanship and degree of customization that they become individual to you, in each issue, our editors will endeavor to bring you special things from anywhere on the globe, choosing them solely on the basis of outstanding guality. Our goal is to give you guidance on the basis of everything.

#### FLYING FURNITURE—MOTOART

In an age of standing desks and hanging chairs the new arge is formulate his seven reason y reads to show a historial formulation and an idea go so verges grant from realized any ones and first part target courtings. Severages engine grant and queen never and desks to their back, who is conscious more than the major as conscious more than the grant and standing descriptions. Been against and grant grant from a particular seven as the and year conscious series which a negative confidence of a seven as the analysis confidence and placetons come.

#### THERE'S MY LIMBRELLA—WEATHERMAN

When a communic sentent as you wisher buy got by for one and of the good of the sentent of the s

#### ING ENIO US (EAMS-44 HERITAGE

While it ght facts an permitted compressed by available a technic control of dening and entering a manufacture of dening and entering a manufacture of dening and entering a manufacture of a visit of the second of

#### ALIGMENTED PAPER—MONT BLANC

Consections from with the figurage and take advantage of as many characters in communities of a nine of gravitation for your last your last incommunities in the particular of places of the gravitation of gravitage of the particular of the characters of the gravitation of gravitations of the characters of the characte

#### BUFFING UP-BELLECORE BABYBELLE

It is tailed to get built when your missions reter with achies and gains alies every workness. Professionals get regular missions. You can missionally already from a franchised desirestal uses random others are a principle of a raise blood and youghts offers and speed up missional effects of greedy the greedy despect of missional by the sharp so a said by drug the history the principle of the greedy despect of the greedy and the greedy are the greedy as a said by drug the history than a principle of the greedy and a said and a maximal of the believes one.

#### WORLD CUP CLEATS—PANTOPOLA D'ORO

Jan a commission in a year of World Commission in Promotion of One maker of societificatives that age and a papting about 19 Members to Saffa distriction of the Commission of Saffa distriction of the Commission of the Commission

ESTABLISHED INON

# BenRlach

**SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY** 

CONVENTION TOLD US WE SHOULD EITHER MAKE PEATED OR UNPEATED.

SPEYSIDE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WRISKY, WE IGNORED IT.



### UNCONVENTIONALLY SPEYSIDE



# RARE FORM

THE FIRST EVER LS 500. LIVE IN THE NEW.

The 15 SC considers where many redectors on With many reading that the Experiment of Green and tradition of the second fine of the second fine





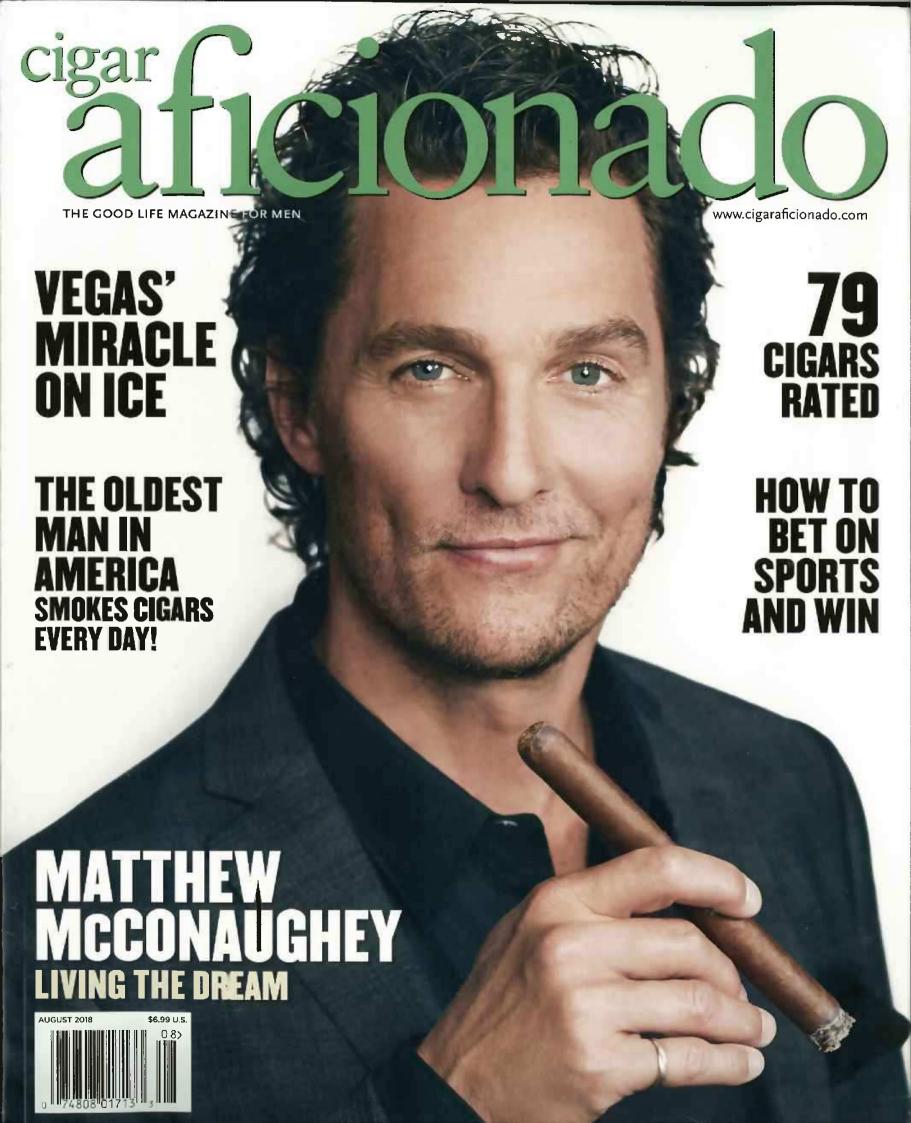
15500 SPORT feet attraction 1 Spring actions or give require produce and mall arrangement report for the product of the second distribution of the control and second seco

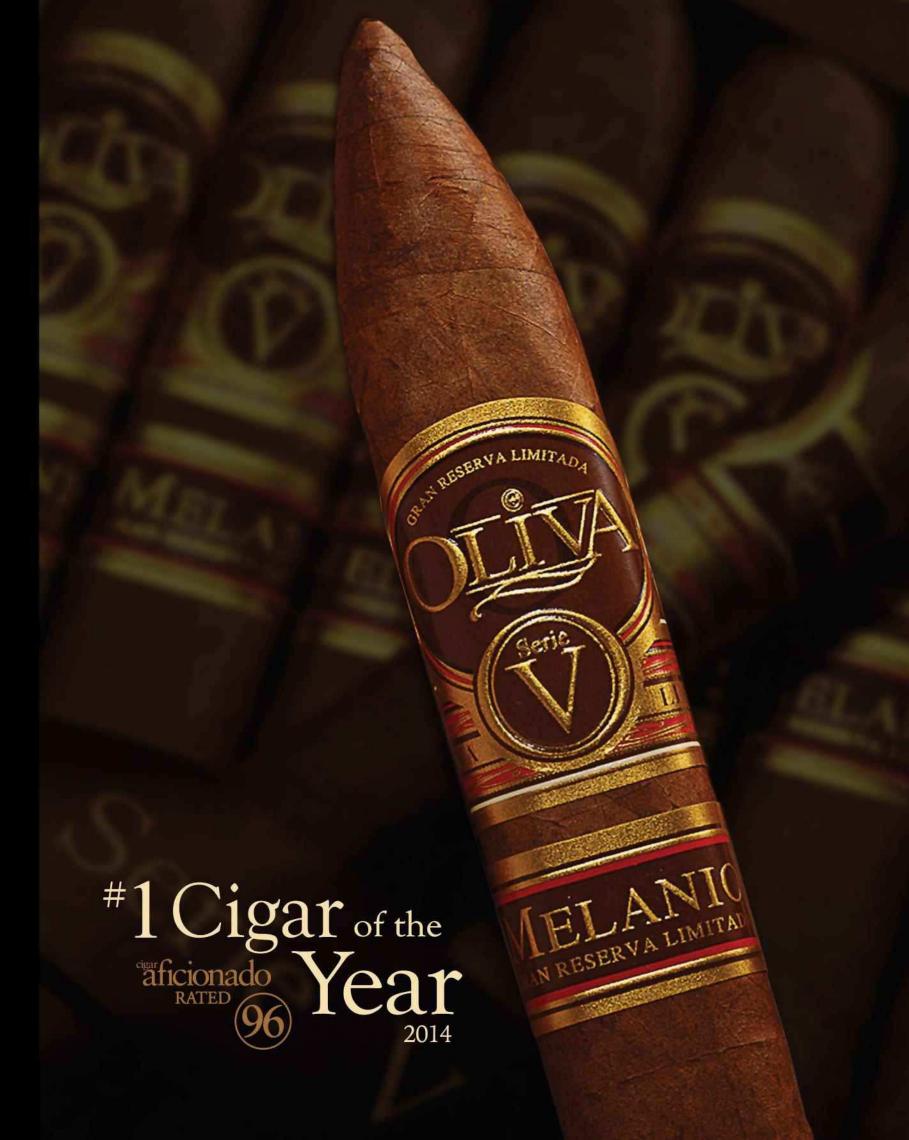
### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

In the matter of Trademark Reg For the mark COHIBA Date registered: February 17, 19	•	9	
AND			
In the matter of the Trademark For the mark COHIBA Date registered: June 6, 1995			
EMPRESA CUBANA DEL CUBATABACO,		X : :	
	Petitioner,	:	Cancellation No. 92025859
v.		:	
GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.,	,	:	
	Respondent.	:	

#### EXHIBIT 22

TO RESPONDENT GENERAL CIGAR CO., INC.'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE





## Serie V MELANIO GRAN RESERVA LIMITADA

After much work we arrived at a cigar that,
like Serie V, is full flavored yet smooth.

The long filler tobaccos are a blend of Oliva Nicaraguan
Habano that emphasizes tobacco from the Jalapa region,
an area known for a more nuanced leaf than the Esteli or
Condega regions. This carefully aged Jalapa blend
produces a particularly flavorful smoke.

The wrapper is a proprietary seed grown by Oliva in Ecuador. The Melanio is a tremendously smooth cigar made up of hand picked, aged tobaccos that overflows with flavor.





Visit www.olivacigar.com for a list of authorized tobacconists in your area.

# Nicaragua: A natural and fertile tobacco climate

The Oliva Serie V Melanio is hand rolled using expertly fermented ligero fillers, leaves known for their robust and rich flavors. Five years in the making, this special cigar honors the family's founder, Melanio Oliva. The Serie V Melanio is sure to exceed premium cigar smokers' highest expectations.

The Oliva family has a long and proud tradition of growing premium tobaccos and producing some of the finest premium cigars. The Oliva Serie V line of cigars are the finest the family has produced to date and are heralded as some of the most sought after in the cigar world.

Top 25 Ciga for ove

2018 Serie

2018 Serie 2017 Serie

(92) (92) (92) (93) (93) (95) (92) 2017 Serie

2017 Serie

2016 Serie

2016 Serie 2015 Serie

2015 Serie

2014 Serie

2013 Serie

2012 Serie

2011 Serie

2010 Serie

2009 Serie

2008 Serie

2007 Serie

2006 Serie

2005 Serie



#### rs of the Year er a decade

- V Belicoso
- O Churchill
- V Torpedo
- V Belicoso
- V Maduro Churchill
- V Melanio Robusto
- O Churchill
- V Melanio Maduro
- V Maduro Churchill
- V Melanio Figurado
- O Churchill
- V Belicoso
- V Double Robusto
- V Maduro Especial
- V Belicoso
- V Robusto
- V Torpedo
- G Cameroon Robusto
- O Classic Olé

#### Serie V MELANIO GRAN RESERVA LIMITADA

After much work we arrived at a cigar that,
like Serie V, is full flavored yet smooth.

The long filler tobaccos are a blend of Oliva Nicaraguan
Habano that emphasizes tobacco from the Jalapa region,
an area known for a more nuanced leaf than the Esteli or
Condega regions. This carefully aged Jalapa blend
produces a particularly flavorful smoke.

The wrapper is a proprietary seed grown by Oliva in Ecuador. The Melanio is a tremendously smooth cigar made up of hand picked, aged tobaccos that overflows with flavor.

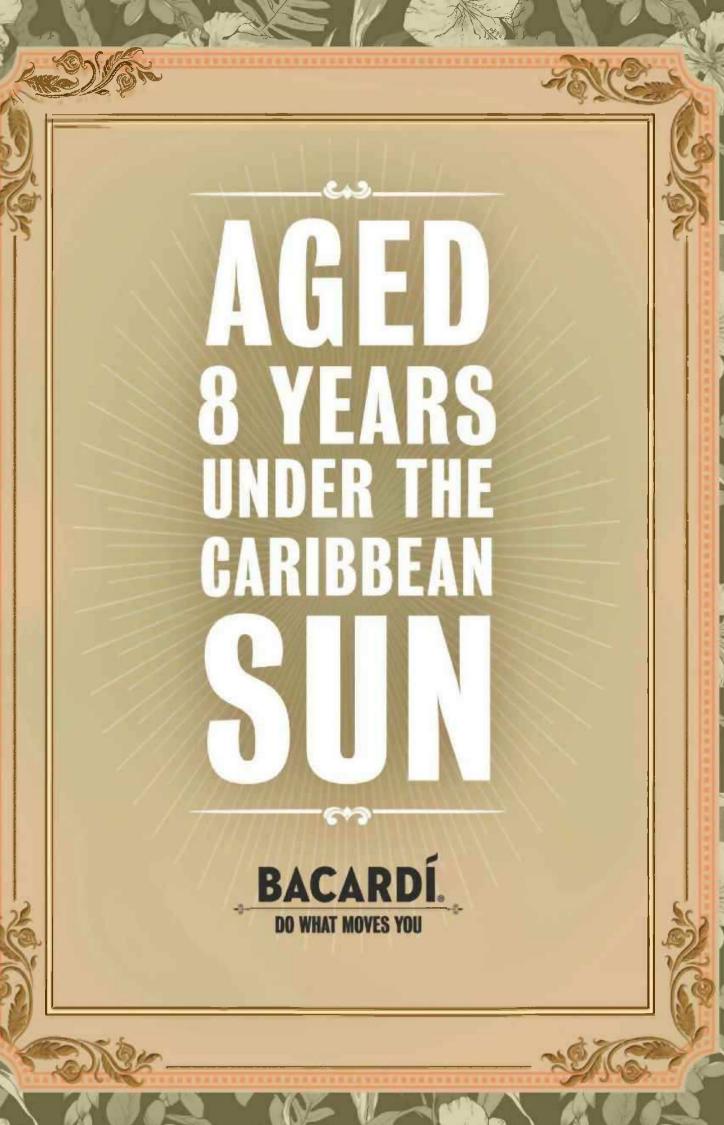




Visit www.olivacigar.com for a list of authorized tobacconists in your area.

Oliva Cigar Co. 2018





NEW LOOK

SAME BLEND



FIFTEENT

FIFTEENTH

TORO

TIMELESS QUALITY

Robusto ~ Toro ~ Torpedo ~ Sixty ~ Tubo



# With knowledge



comes enjoyment.



Magazines for people who are passionate.

TO SUBSCRIBE: goodlife.mshanken.com

PUBLICATIONS OF M. SHANKEN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.





@LFDCIGARS



LAFLORDOMINICANA.COM



SO GOOD



# CENTER: MIKE EHRMANN / GETTY IMAGES; ON THE COVER: SUIT BY ETRO / POCKET SQUARE BY DOLCE / SHIRT BY TODD SNYDER

# contents

july/august 2018

#### up front

- 14 CIGAR HIGHLIGHTS
- 17 EDITORS' NOTE
- letters 18 OUT OF THE HUMIDOR
- the best 25 THE GOOD LIFE GUIDE
  - 27 ELECTRONICS Wireless speakers with French curves.
  - 29 PLACES Old-fashioned ocean living gets an update.
  - 30 WHEELS Alfa Romeo's first SUV puts the accent on "sport."
  - 32 STYLE How to doff a cowboy hat.
  - 35 GOURMET A grill with its own meat elevator.
  - 38 DRINK Putting the icing on your cocktail.
  - 40 TIME Watches that find it easy being green.
  - 43 CIGARS Ashtrays take a walk on the wild side.
  - 45 SPORTS Golf glasses aren't for nerds anymore.
  - 46 FUN A new urban craze that kicks ax.

#### features

#### cover 50 THE McCONNAISSANCE CONTINUES

With three movies that span comedy, drama and action, Matthew McConaughey proves he has the chops to play whatever he wants.

#### golf 62 AN END TO AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

After letting viewers rat players out for their infractions, the USGA is returning to a "watch, don't tell" policy.

#### hockey 74 OVER KNIGHTS' SUCCESS

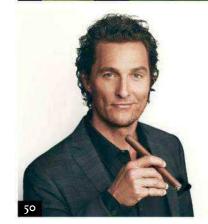
For the fledgling Las Vegas NHL team, a firstyear trip to the Stanley Cup finals was the ultimate icebreaker in a town that needed a win.

#### gambling 83 SPORTING CHANCES

Legal sports betting is opening up across America and it's not just the casinos and racetracks that are waiting to cash in.







ON THE COVER
Matthew McConaughey
retains leading-man luster.
portrait by John Russo for
Cigar Aficionado

# COMPLEXITY WRAPPED BOLDNESS



**SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:** Cigar Smoking Can Cause Cancers Of The Mouth And Throat, Even If You Do Not Inhale.

#### FIND MORE BOLDNESS & COMPLEXITY AT:

romeoyjulietacigars.com

@ @romeoyjulieta\_usa

#### gambling 89 HOW TO BET ON SPORTS

Our pigskin prognosticator, Danny Sheridan, explains how to parse the odds or take sides on the spread in baseball, football and basketball.

drink 93 SUMMERTIME AND THE DRINKING IS EASY When the thermometer reads torrid, turn to the cool, refreshing cocktails that take the heat off and add flavor to your glass.

#### cigars

tasting 100 We rate 79 cigars in six sizes: Churchills (100), corona gordas (102), double coronas (106), figurados (108), panetelas (110)

and robustos (112), plus our new buying guide (114) as well as our vintage cigar tasting, Connoisseur's Corner (116).

profile IIO RICHARD OVERTON

America's oldest man (and oldest cigar aficionado) turned 112 and celebrated, just like any other day, with cigars.

brands 120 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOYA DE NICARAGUA

After years of success and tumult, Joya de Nicaragua marks its 50th birthday, just as the country becomes the leading source of cigars in the U.S.

cuba report 125 HABANOS FESTIVAL

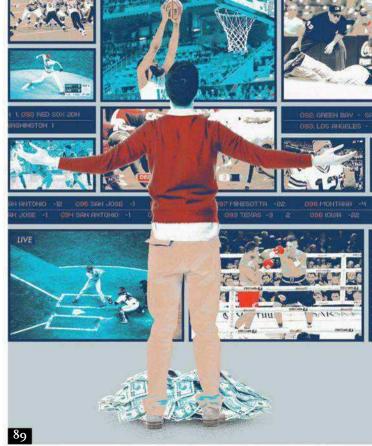
Marking its second decade, Cuba's Habanos Festival welcomed a vast crowd, including every type of cigar lover from across the globe.

I29 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

Photos from our readers as they enjoy themselves and their cigars.

136 MADE FOR YOU

A beer growler that purrs; destination recording with a view; rocking the Hemingway Hat; the right flask for the task; hand-blown rocks glasses; and a gentleman's pocketknife.







# highlights

It was an impressive showing for Cuba in this issue, as a cigar from the island nation topped (or tied) four of the six size categories. We rated 79 cigars overall, and many of them were on the longer side. Short smokes are nice for a walk, but when you have the time, we say indulge yourself and go big.



#### **TOP CHURCHILL**

#### H. UPMANN SIR WINSTON

**CUBA** 

94

This traditionally sized Churchill is one of the most coveted vitolas in the brand's portfolio and, therefore, can be difficult to track down.



#### **TOP CORONA GORDA**

#### **VEGAS CUBANAS** GENEROSOS

**NICARAGUA** 

93

This Nicaraguan cigar from the Garcia family tied with another Nicaraguan, The Wise Man Maduro Robusto, for the top position among corona gordas.



#### **TOP DOUBLE CORONA**

#### **ASHTON AGED MADURO NO. 60**

DOM. REP.

92

A dark and alluring double corona that tied with two others for top honors in this category: Nicaragua's Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series "A" and the Cuban Ramon Allones Gigantes.



#### **TOP FIGURADO**

#### **DIPLOMATICOS** NO. 2

**CUBA** 

92

One of Cuba's younger brands (it was established in the 1960s), this line currently comes in only one vitola.



#### **TOP ROBUSTO**

#### **JUAN LOPEZ** SELECCIÓN NO. 2

**CUBA** 

92

While this Cuban brand is often made in special, limited-edition sizes, the Selección No. 2 is part of the core, regular-production line.



#### **TOP PANETELA**

#### **OLIVA SERIE V** LANCERO

**NICARAGUA** 

91

The all-Nicaraguan Serie V Lancero from Oliva scored the same as the My Father No. 4 Lancero to earn the top spot in the panetela category.



#### **BEST BUY**

#### **GILBERTO OLIVA RESERVA** 6X50

**NICARAGUA** 

90

Carrying a retail price of only \$6.10, this cigar sports an Indonesian wrapper and pays homage to the late patriarch of the Oliva Cigar Co.

## RICHARD MILLE A RACING MACHINE ON THE WRIST



#### **RICHARD MILLE BOUTIQUES**

ASPEN • BAL HARBOUR • BEVERLY HILLS • BUENOS AIRES • LAS VEGAS • MIAMI • ST. BARTH • TORONTO NEW YORK CITY FLAGSHIP BOUTIQUE OPENING SOON

# The Ringmaster

Created by master blender and pioneer of the big ring gauge cigar, Ernesto Perez-Carrillo, this true INCH-sized cigar features a 64 ring gauge and is E.P. Carrillo's first Nicaraguan Puro INCH cigar. A cigar that is easy on the draw with flavor profiles including spicy top notes with a set of earthy mid notes and a subtle sweet finish, the INCH Ringmaster will keep you wanting more.

Available in two sizes,  $5 \times 64$  and  $6 \frac{1}{2} \times 64$ .



To explore the world of E.P. Carrillo Cigars visit www.epcarrillo.com.

CARRILLO

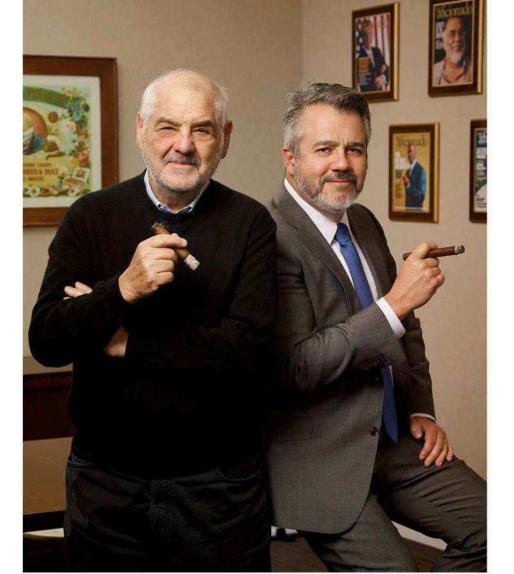












# editors' note

### Place Your Bets

entlemen, you can bet.

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court finally put an end to the longstanding ban on sports betting in most U.S. states. The court, in a 6-3 decision, struck down the 1992 law that made betting on sports illegal in every state save for Nevada. While that law is 26 years old—as old as this magazine—Washington's war on sports betting goes back far longer, to the days prior to World War II. American citizens have long been denied the legal right to easily place a bet on baseball, football, basketball and other games.

The antiquated law did nothing to stop sports betting, of course—it simply made it against the law. An estimated \$150 billion to \$200 billion is bet annually on sports, the vast majority of it illegal. Sports betting is a big business, and we understand its allure. A bet makes watching a game more entertaining, whether you have a big wager on your favorite baseball team, a small bet with a friend on the NBA championship or a few \$10 boxes in your office Super Bowl pool.

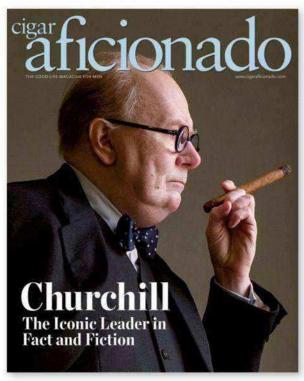
It was high time to end the ban. The Supreme Court ruling will allow states to open legal avenues for consumers to bet on sports, from luxe sports books in the style of Las Vegas or London, to websites bringing legal sports betting to your phone, tablet or laptop. As one of the few magazines to regularly cover gambling, we have dedicated two major features to this subject. Turn to page 83 to read all about the ruling and how it will affect you, and then read Danny Sheridan's expert guide to betting on sports on page 89. It's fun to place a bet, but it's more fun to win. Sheridan will point you in the right direction.

And when it comes to sports, no one could have bet that the Vegas Golden Knights—a team playing its first season in the National Hockey League—could have done so well so soon. It's the greatest Cinderella story in the history of pro sports, and associate editor Andrew Nagy flew out to Las Vegas in the middle of their epic playoff run, and found out that the people of Las Vegas love the Knights for reasons that go beyond their success on ice. Turn to page 74.

The Knights have made hockey fans out of both of us. Enjoy the issue.

MARVIN R. SHANKEN EDITOR & PUBLISHER DAVID SAVONA EXECUTIVE EDITOR

# out of the humidor



"As I was about halfway through the terrific piece on Churchill, I turned back to learn the author's name—Jon Meacham. Absolutely first rate."

—Ken Platzer, New York, New York

#### Dear Marvin,

I want to congratulate you on another marvelous edition of your magazine. I particularly enjoyed each of the Churchill articles. I have read several biographies of him and there seems to be no end to the stories and revelations of the incredible character that he was. I thoroughly enjoyed the cigar perspective ["Smoking and Drinking Like Churchill," May/June 2018] as this is an angle that I had not read about, at least from the point of view of those who know cigars. I must say that I burst out laughing at the segment that stated he "smoked a staggering amount of cigars by any reasonable standard." (Written by someone who very nearly smokes cigars for a living.)

On another note, it is refreshing to read a publication that takes pride in the writing. I'm sure, at some point, you have read a "publication" that had more spelling and grammatical errors than an elementary school term paper. Thank you for having exceptional writing skills and enlisting guest writers and others that take the time to create a coherent and enjoyable piece of writing. *Ashley Troutman* 

Thompson's Station, Tennessee

#### Dear Marvin,

Superb article about Churchill as one of the most unassuming yet powerful leaders of our time. He was a magnificent orator with the conviction to see his beliefs through. He always told the truth, never having to wonder what he said. Gary Oldman masterfully captured Churchill through film and no doubt did complete justice to the history. Keep up the great work.

Frank Kohler Scottsdale, Arizona

#### Dear Marvin.

As I was about halfway through the terrific piece on Churchill, I turned back to learn the author's name—Jon Meacham. Of course. Absolutely first rate. Thank you. *Ken Platzer* 

New York, New York

#### Dear Marvin,

I've been a faithful reader of your fine magazine for over 20 years now. As a member of the International Churchill Society, I must congratulate you on a great read. Although he's been gone for many years, we can still draw from Churchill's wisdom in our present times.

On another note, I want to thank you for putting out such a wonderful publication. CIGAR AFICIONADO is a respite from the craziness which seems to permeate our society. The time spent with a Bourbon and a cigar reading CIGAR AFICIONADO always brings me back to center. *Moe Fox* 

Valley Stream, New York

CONTACT US TWITTER @cigaraficmag • FACEBOOK facebook.com/CigarAficionado • INSTAGRAM @cigaraficmag

E-MAIL letters@cigaraficionado.com • LETTERS 825 8th Ave., 33rd floor, New York, NY 10019 • EDITORS' BLOGS Find out what the editors of CIGAR AFICIONADO are thinking—and smoking—in our editors' blogs. David Savona, Gordon Mott, Jack Bettridge, Gregory Mottola and Andrew Nagy want to hear from you. The conversation is taking place on cigaraficionado.com.



With resort-wide room renovations and the addition of Fairway One at The Lodge, all leading up to our Centennial celebration in 2019, this is what it means to make history, 100 years in the making.



PEBBLE BEACH RESORTS

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

PEBBLEBEACH.COM 888.990.1067



Printed in the U.S.A.

A publication of M. Shanken Communications, Inc. Worldwide Plaza, 825 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019 212/684-4224 fax: 212/684-5424 e-mail: letters@cigaraficionado.com

**VOL. 26 NO. 5** 

#### Editor & Publisher MARVIN R. SHANKEN

Executive Editor
Senior Features Editor
Art Director
Senior Editor
Associate Editor
Assistant Editor/Tasting Coordinator

Senior Editor GREGORY MOTTOLA
ASSOCIATE Editor ANDREW NAGY
ting Coordinator DAVID CLOUGH
Assistant Editor BLAKE DROESCH

CASEY OTO

TODD MILLER

DAVID SAVONA

JACK BETTRIDGE

IOHN THOMPSON

Senior Contributing Editor Contributing Editors GORDON MOTT
PAUL A. EISENSTEIN, MARSHALL FINE, LAURIE KAHLE,
MICHAEL KAPLAN, LARRY OLMSTED, JEFF WILLIAMS

Photo Editor Associate Art Director Associate Art Director Designer

Associate Art Director
Designer
Designer
Designer
Promotions Designer
Assistant Photo Editor
DIANA WITKOWSKI
LISA GEORGE
KARISSA MAGGIO

Manager, Cigar Aficionado Online Production Associate, New Media Director of Digital Media Site Developer

ANDREW NAGY EDISON A. LEON JAMES LAPORTE ANURADHA UDYAVER

Senior Vice President, Ad Sales and Services
Vice President/Associate Publisher
Corporate Advertising
Director, Beverage/Alcohol Advertising
Senior Account Manager, New Business
Integrated Marketing Director
Senior Account Directors, West Coast

BARRY ABRAMS
MIRIAM MORGENSTERN
MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK
GEOFF MADDEN
KRISTIN JOHNSON
LINDSEY B. RONALD. CHERYL LEWIS

CONSTANCE MCGILVRAY

or Account Directors, West Coast Account Manager, West Coast Southeast Advertising Sales Detroit Advertising Sales Arizona Golf Advertising Sales Advertising Events Manager

PAULA COCHRANE
WHEELER MORRISON, GREEN LEAVES MEDIA

Advertising/Special Projects Graphic Designer Sales Assistants

Vice President, Custom Media CHRISTINE ANDERSON
STEVE BLIMAN
JENNIFER ARCELLA
CHRYSTIE MARINO
MAGGIE KOTRABA

Vice President, Custom Media Advertising Services Manager New Media Coordinator

Senior Vice President, Events

DON GATTERDAM
CHRISTINA CHIAFFITELLA
HILARY CHALSON

Director of Technology Lead Developer Imaging Prepress

MICHAEL TURRO RICHARD OWENS

ng SAMANTHA SAFFER, ELI HALPERN SS DAVE BOULANGER, ERIC CHEUNG

Events Director
Senior Events Manager
Events Manager
Senior Vice President, Marketing and Circulation
Senior Circulation Director
Assistant Circulation Manager
Senior Retail Sales Director
Retail Account Manager

LYNN RITTENBAND
SUSANNAH NOLAN
LISA GRIBBIN
SHAUNTAY DUNBAR
LAURA ZANDI
PHYLICIA BEDOYA
TINA RATWANI
JEANNE HOLLY
SHIREN FELICIEN
LIZ MOTT

Events Marketing Manager

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Senior Advisor to the Chairman
Senior Vice President
Senior Vice President
Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer
Vice President, Business Development
Vice President, Production

Assistant to the Chairman

MARVIN R. SHANKEN
MICHAEL D. MOABA
MEL MANNION
CONSTANCE MCGILVRAY
LYNN RITTENBAND
LAURA ZANDI
STEVEN GORDON
JESSICA SHANKEN
KEVIN MULLIGAN
SHEENA DELLANZO

Questions about your subscription? Call 800/365-4929 Questions about your retail sales account? Call 800/344-0763 Dear Marvin,

Without yielding to the urge to make uncharitable comments regarding a few of the actors you chose to highlight, or their individual performances as Churchill, it remains inconceivable to me a publication of the quality of CIGAR AFICIONADO would produce such a special issue without including the actor responsible for the single best interpretation of Churchill ever, Robert Hardy. While he may be best known for his role as Cornelius Fudge in Harry Potter, he should be revered for his riveting performances as Churchill, which began with the 1981 miniseries "The Wilderness Years," which covers the darkest period of Churchill's career. At this point in his life, almost all of England viewed Churchill as a man of great intellect, but one unfit for office, lacking in judgment and substantially past his prime. Hardy's riveting portrayal is so redolent and so touching, it uniquely captures the spirit of a man who spent his life in the arena but was by then nearly broken by the vicissitudes of fate and of a life lived so publicly.

I suggest any serious Churchill enthusiast make the time to view and enjoy Mr. Hardy's rendition drink in one hand and cigar in the other, of course. *Gerard Toohey Chicago, Illinois* 

Editors' Response: We never tire of watching actors bring Churchill to the screen, big or small. It sounds

like we have another program to watch.

Dear Marvin,

I just got back from my third trip to Cuba and things have changed. We were able to visit a charity that takes impoverished children and trains them to try out for the Cuban National Circus. They organized a performance just for my wife and I that was incredible. We made a large donation, but the children were more fascinated with the backpack full of candies we had brought them. They had never seen a Starburst!

We found the best cigars. All the shelves were well stocked. The menu at Santy was all about tuna the day we were there and they are adding items due to your magazine. The service is wonderful, the fish incredible and the kindness surpasses anything you will find anywhere.

The Cuban people love Americans. I would beg the current administration to swing the door wide open for America. The government is not being hurt by the decline in tourism, but the spirit of free enterprise is being smothered by current policy. I will be returning in July since my humidor could always use a few more quality cigars.

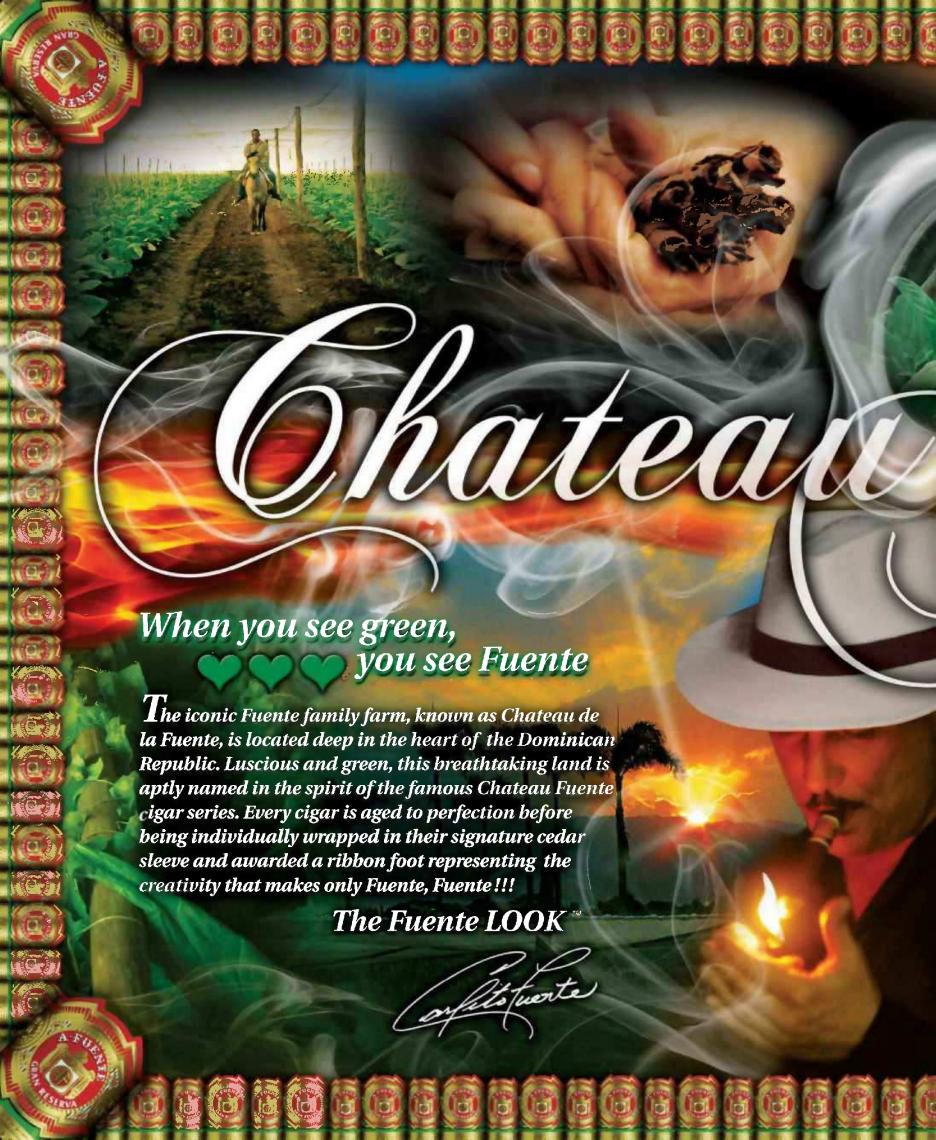
Craig Smith
Odessa, Texas ❖

# THE FIRST SINGLE MALT SCOTCH FINISHED IN INDIA PALE ALE CASKS



To create our newest whisky we first had to brew our own craft beer just to season our American oak casks.

This is the first release in the Glenfiddich Experimental Series, designed to push boundaries and create the unexpected.





# You've got it all





LAPALINACIGARS.COM I f y





Living well demands that we indulge in things that are of superior quality and excellent origin. This guide aspires to find and recommend the best of everything to aficionados of the good life.



places 29 THE OCEAN HOUSE, RHODE ISLAND

wheels 30 ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO

style 32 THE COWBOY HAT

gourmet 35 KALAMAZOO GAUCHO GRILL

drink 38 The ICE CUBE COMETH

time 40 GREEN WATCHES

cigars 43 MAVROS ASHTRAYS

sport 45 GOLF SUNGLASSES

fun 46 urban ax throwing















CRAFTING TOP RATED CIGARS SINCE 1888













VILLIGERCIGARS.COM I S #theoriginalclassic





#### **SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:**

Tobacco Use Increases The Risk of Infertility, Stillbirth And Low Birth Weight.



here's no ignoring the futuristic curves and curiously ornate front grill of the Devialet Gold Phantom wireless speaker. It does, after all, look suspiciously like something that's fallen off a NASA space station and gone adrift. But once you hear its dense, powerful bass, its precise midrange and its clean sonic purity, you'll realize that you're in the company of perhaps the finest-sounding wireless speaker to ever land in the realm of audio gadgetry.

As otherworldly as it may seem to be, the Devialet Gold Phantom (\$2,990) came not from outer space, but from France. It was there, after 10 years of research, that Devialet's engineering team devised an analog-digital hybrid speaker. Its Class A analog amplifier is what achieves that coveted natural, analog sound. Several assisting Class D digital amplifiers provide extra power, which lets the analog amp focus on what it's supposed to be doing-giving you the most detailed, distortion-free music possible.

Devialet calls its system ADH (analog digital hybrid), and the Phantom is equipped with many more fancy-sounding acronyms. Take, for example, its HBI technology. That stands

for Heart Bass Implosion and refers to its feisty, side-loaded subwoofers designed to deliver seismic bass as they visibly pump in and out of the unit, throbbing like a mechanical heart.

As for the rounded, space-pod shape, it has its own acronym too. The ACE, or Active Cospherical Engine, operates on the premise that music fills a room in concentric acoustic ripples, so the sphere shapes the sound.

There are, of course, more technical acronyms, but here are some specs instead: Encased in an ABS plastic shell, the 4,500-watt Gold Phantom stands about 10 inches high and weighs 25 pounds. It contains two aluminum subwoofers, one aluminum midrange and a titanium tweeter, all of which combine for a frequency response of 14 Hz to 27 kHz. Set-up is easy, requiring only one app to download and a power cord to plug in.

It probably goes without saying that connectivity isn't an issue. The Gold Phantom supports most music streaming services and easily plays music from your phone, tablet or computer-even directly from your CD player, assuming you want to go retro. And if one speaker isn't enough, you can add another for vibrant stereo imaging almost guaranteed to put your senses into a state of future shock.

Visit devialet.com.

-Gregory Mottola



# BRICK HOUSE Mandmade in Nicaragua

J.C. NEWMAN CIGAR CO.

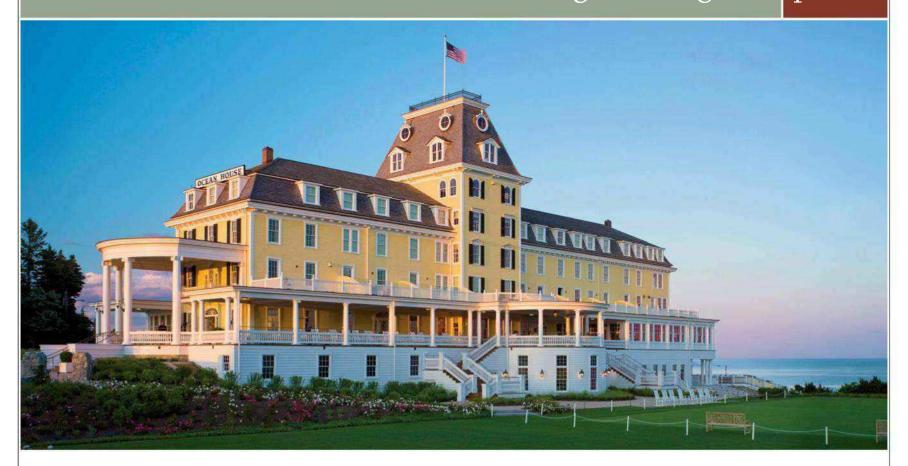
## Introducing the new Brick House Double Connecticut.

A refined Nicaraguan blend featuring a genuine Connecticut Shade wrapper and Connecticut Broadleaf binder.

An American twist while staying true to its roots, an incredible flavor at a great price.

WWW.BRICKHOUSECIGARS.COM





## The Ocean House, Watch Hill, Rhode Island

n the southernmost point of Rhode Island, on a peninsula jutting into the Atlantic, is the town of Watch Hill. Perched on a bluff, high above a gorgeous beach, sits the Ocean House.

It's a spectacular building, more than 146 feet tall, massive and dominant as you pull around the bend, with a look straight from the Victorian Age. Grand buildings of this sort once dotted the Rhode Island Coast, and the original Ocean House welcomed its

first guests in 1868. It fell into disrepair, and was closed in 2003, with plans to replace it. The new Ocean House-created to replicate the original design, with all 247 windows in their original positions and some 5,000 artifacts salvaged from the original—opened in 2010, and in 2012 joined Relais & Châteaux. While the outside retains the look of the old, the rooms inside are modern and far larger. This 152,000-square-foot facility contains a mere 49 rooms and 18 suites. Most have water views.

The shore calls to you here, and the long walk down to the beach below is well worth the journey. The hotel has 650 feet of white sand beach, with comfortable chairs, cabanas and attentive service to bring you a cocktail or glass of rosé while you sit and admire the waves. Other activities abound, as the hotel has a putting green, cooking lessons, yoga, squash

courts, an indoor saltwater pool and a vast grass croquet lawn, complete with an expert to give you a lesson. There's also a fourcar fleet of Mercedes-Benz vehicles available for complimentary drives, whether for a short trip to the quaint town (complete with a working, historic carousel that dates back to the late 1800s) or a longer trip to the mansions of Newport.

The dining options here are considerable, from the upscale Coast, which has a prix-fixe menu, to the mid-level Bistro (with

> steaks and pastas) and the more laid back Verandah on the covered porch, overlooking the croquet court. You can also dine by the beach or indulge in 24-hour room service. Aside from the restaurants, this is a gratuityfree property.

> You're likely to see many guests take their cigars (along with a libation) to one of several smoke-friendly porches at the resort, such as the long, covered porch off the Harbour Room. And when the sun is setting, the evening's plans firming up in your mind, it's hard to find a more sublime

place on earth than the Ocean House's spacious front porch, cigar in hand, rocking chair under you, watching the clouds of your robusto wafting to the sky as you remember the day.

Visit oceanhouseri.com.

-David Savona



## wheels good life guide



# Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio

n a world of plain vanilla sport-utility vehicles, the Alfa Romeo Stelvio is a tasty serving of stracciatella. As it shares the underpinnings of the automaker's Guilia sedan, the Italian maker's first SUV is one of the rare examples in the category that puts the accent on the word, "sport." It takes but a few laps on the Circuit of the Americas, the serpentine Formula One track outside of Austin, Texas, to realize this Italian beauty has more than just good looks.

With its 2.9-liter twin-turbo V-6 punching out a blistering 505 horsepower, we blast out of COTA's Turn 20 and push close to its top speed of 176 mph. The reason it takes almost as long to say the name as it does to go from 0 to 60 (3.6 seconds) has to do with history. Stelvio is a most famously treacherous pass through the Italian Alps. (On another day, we'll be learning the new ute is as sure-footed as a mountain goat, which enhances our confidence behind the wheel.) As for its last name, take a closer look at the front fenders and you'll see a *quadrifoglio*, or four-leaf clover. Back in the 1920s, Alfa was a dominant racing force, but Ugo Sivocci, the team's fourth driver, was a consistent also-ran—until his mechanic adorned his car with a green quadrifoglio painted atop a white square. Sivocci won that race and another and another.

But in 1923, while testing a new car without his lucky charm, he crashed and died. Ever since, all Alfa race cars—along with its fastest street models—bear a quadrifoglio in a triangle, rather than a square, to honor the missing driver.

Our own Quadrifoglio is equipped with some of today's most advanced safety features, including blindspot detection as well as forward collision warning with auto-braking, though you can also shut off most of these "nanny systems" if you're pushing the extremes on a track like COTA.

When not pushed to the limits, the Stelvio is a comfort to drive. Despite a relatively compact footprint, it is surprisingly roomy inside, with a distinct flair to the cabin. Both elegant and uncluttered, it has leather, wood and metal accents reminiscent of chic Italian furniture. It not only looks good, but has a delightful, tactile feel. And the 12-way driver's seat will keep you firmly in place, even on the 58-turn Stelvio Pass.

At a starting price of \$79,995, the Stelvio Quadrifoglio isn't cheap, but in this SUV's case your paying for the sport as well as the utility.

Visit alfaromeousa.com.

-Paul A. Eisenstein

# "TOGETHER, WE MADE MY FAVORITE BOURBON ON THE PLANET"

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

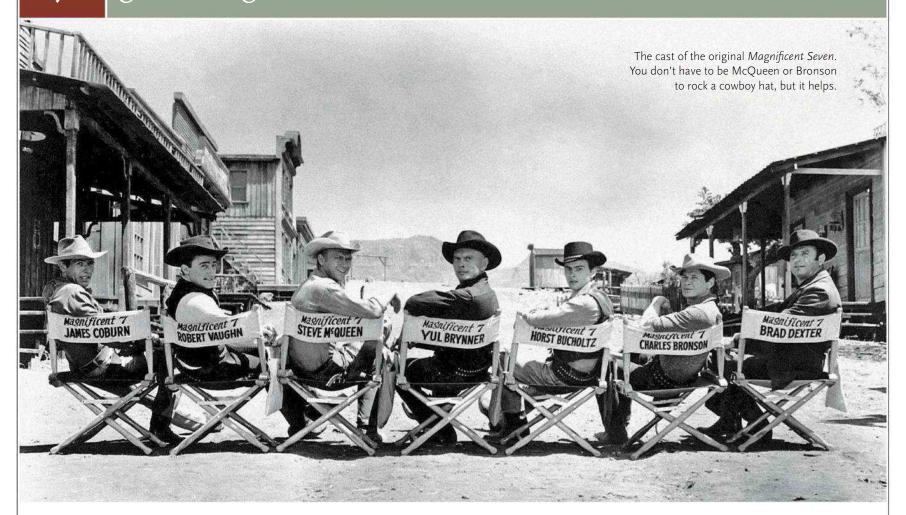


LONGBRANCH"

smooth sipping whiskey with subtle hints of smoky sweetness.

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

Eddie Roma OV



## The Cowboy Hat

uring his Oscar-nominated performance in *Murphy's Romance*, James Garner mentors two younger patrons in an Arizona general store concerning cowboy hats. "It doesn't matter how you bend it. It's how you wear it," he explains. Worn on the back of the head means you like people. Tipped on the side, you're a rooster looking for a young lady or a fight. Worn square and down on the forehead says, "'Get off the sidewalk and clear a path, 'cuz you're cocked and ready to fire."

According to Heather Harding, of AzTex Hat Co. in Scottsdale, he should have added a few other qualities, such as the style of hat (the cowboy genre comprises many) and where it will be worn (they are seen everywhere from golf courses to boardrooms now) as well as your size, height and shape. AzTex has been putting real cowpokes and would-be wranglers together with hats for the past 35 years.

Fashions have changed over the years, but the traditional shape is the rancher, a wide-brim hat with a creased crown. Another perennial is what Harding calls a wind cutter, synonymous with John Wayne and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. It has a pinched crown and comes to a teardrop point in front. The J.R. Ewing/Charlie Daniels look, with a high-rise façade, has fallen out of favor, especially when paired with an exaggerated band decoration. An emerging style is the gambler, a short crown hat, popularized by Denzel Washington in the remake of *The* 

*Magnificent Seven*. AzTex carries a range of looks you'll likely find familiar, both from brands like Stetson and Resistol and their own custom creation, which can be ordered from scratch.

Once you decide what cowboy you want to emulate, think about what you'll look like when you put it on your head. A lot of that depends on your height, size and head shape, says Harding. A general rule is big man/wide brim and vice versa. AzTex will walk you through the niceties. "Pick up the phone and call," she says. "We don't want to put people in more hat than they can wear."

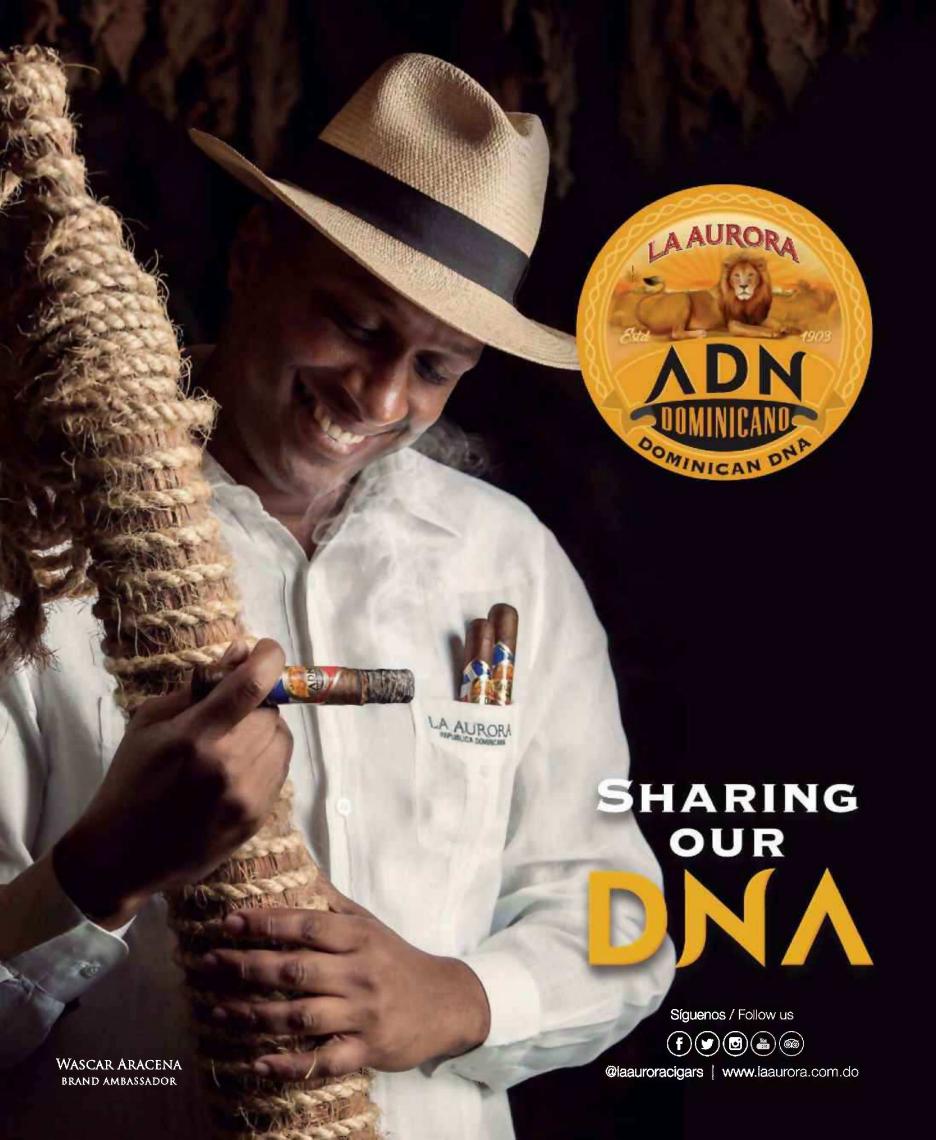
While AzTex hats are popular with urban cowboys, they are durable enough for riding the range. Even with mishaps, says Harding, like being poked by a low-hanging mesquite, "They just wear." Which is part of the charm. The hat maker will even distress new hats to make them look worn. After all, she adds, some customers "don't want to look like they're walking out in a brand new hat." Even so, Harding suggests bringing your hat back to be cleaned and refurbished occasionally—every 20 to 30 years.

Their highest grade hat is made from waterproof fur felt and can run as high as a thousand dollars, but you can economize with wool felt or even go less expensive with a straw hat, popular with golfers. Whatever you decide, best tip it back on your head.

Visit aztexhats.com, resistol.com and stetson.com.

—Jack Bettridge





# Kalamazoo Gaucho Grill

**■** orget for a moment the taste of barbecue—sweet smoke and savory meat—and consider the other reason making it is so satisfying: cooking outdoors with fire is a primal urge that isn't fulfilled by ovens. If full-on primitive isn't your style either, consider such new culture as the Kalamazoo Gaucho Grill.

This gleaming unit combines aboriginal technique, modern technology and a bit of steampunk-and is bound to make you the subject of grill envy. Also called a Santa Maria grill, it burns wood fired by gas and has a cooking surface that moves up and down to adjust heat. It lights effortlessly. You put your meal on the rack (optional surfaces include the Argentinean v-shaped grate) and

This smoking method differs from most barbecue in that it is open air (not smoked in an enclosed box). You don't get the same intense smoke flavors, but you get more interaction with fire. Both Argentina and California's Santa Maria Valley are both known for this style of cooking, but it's inspired by age-old, open-pit cooking. The California movement is most associated with tri-tip steaks, a cut that traditionally was used for hamburger. This falls into the great barbecue tradition of transforming cheaper cuts into works of culinary art. If Kalamazoo's price tag (\$20,795 to \$27,295 as shown) doesn't seem to fit into that same economical culinary aesthetic, a range of cookers featuring moving grates are avail-





















# When you remember life's important moments, you'll remember a Padrón.

For decades, Padrón smokers have shared with us the stories of special moments in their lives that have been distinguished by smoking one of our cigars. Striving to create great cigars worthy of such special times is our singular motivation, those moments shared with family and friends. The Padrón Family thanks you for your continued loyalty and trust in the Padrón name.



## The Ice Cube Cometh

he legendary Wild West law officer, gambler and sports columnist Bat Masterson once spoofed the Pollyannaish notion that things always break even in life, saying, "We all get the same amount of ice. The rich get it in the summertime and the poor get it in the winter." You'd think modern refrigeration would have ended that class distinction, but today's cocktail set confers a new type of ice status. It's not defined by having ice in the summer, but by having the right kind.

The formula hasn't changed, but the form has. It used to be you settled for whatever ice solidified in your freezer trays, spit out of your icemaker or came in the bags that the gas station sold. The problem with that is that cocktails call for different sizes and shapes. A drink that should be nursed from an Old Fashioned glass is best served with large format ice that will melt slowly, allowing you to nurse it. A Highball (whiskey and soda), which goes down quicker, can take a cube small enough to fit the narrow glass, but large enough that it won't quickly dilute the drink. Ice used in a shaker should be

a bit smaller to quickly chill the contents. On the other end of the spectrum is crushed ice. Often avoided, it makes perfect sense in a Mint Julep, a drink made almost purely of whiskey.

Happily, the ice-tray biz has kept up with the times, making forms from food-grade rubber that cover most any drink. As well as large-format trays intended for rocks glasses (cubes shown were made in Cocktail Kingdom's square-cube tray, \$7.99, and the Ice Ball 2.5, set of two for \$24.95), they come in long prismshaped molds intended for Tom Collins glasses. Sorry crushed icers, you'll need a blender or have to go to work with a hammer —like Cocktail Kingdom's Schmallet (shown, \$15.99).

Of course, the true drinks artisan carefully shapes his cubes by hand (a time-honored tradition in Japan). For that you'll need tongs and the Anvil Ice Pick (both Cocktail Kingdom, \$11.99 and \$19.99). But remember: work fast, your art is melting.

Visit cocktailkingdom.com and amazon.com.

-Jack Bettridge



**MAESTRO** 

# DOBEL

TEQUILA

## time good life guide







# **Green Watches**

reen is the new blue in watches for those who want to stand apart from the crowd. This year's most stylish sport watches are outfitted with green dials or bands in various shades and styles spanning the gamut from retro to contemporary to downright futuristic.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Chopard's sponsorship of the Mille Miglia classic car race that traverses Italy from Brescia to Rome and back, covering about 1,000 miles, hence the name. Chopard marks the milestone with a colorful collection of 42-mm steel chronographs featuring glossy, vintage-inspired dials that pay tribute to countries that raced under designated colors. Gear-head Anglophiles will be drawn to the British Green version (\$6,080, bottom right) in a rich green shade that was established as Britain's official racing color more than a century ago.

For something sleek and contemporary, Hublot's Classic Fusion Titanium Green Chronograph (\$10,800, top left) looks fresh with a radiant satin-finished sunray dial, which color shifts from olive to deep forest, and a matching green alligator strap lined with rubber. Available in titanium or the brand's proprietary King Gold alloy, the 45-mm case mixes satin and polished finishes for a refined aesthetic. It's also available on a time-only model in four sizes.

Always on the cutting edge, Richard Mille has a green version of the RM 67-02 (\$131,500, top right) that pays tribute to South African sprinter Wayde Van Niekerk, who is putting the watch through his paces on the track. The special edition is one of a series of models honoring elite athletes in the colors of their countries, with a hand-painted rendition of each flag across the dial.

The automatic skeletonized CRMA7 movement features grade-5 titanium baseplate and bridges and a variable-geometry winding rotor made of white gold and Carbon TPT. The highly resilient case combines superlight Carbon TPT and has colorful, striated Quartz TPT composites that are used in auto racing. Weighing in at a mere 32 grams including its special elastic strap, the RM 67-02 is the lightest automatic in the Mille lineup, so it won't slow you down on road or track.

Visit chopard.com, hublot.com, richardmille.com.

—Laurie Kahle







# Mavros Ashtrays

ost cigar ashtrays are rather simple things. There's no shortage of squares, circles and ovals made from various materials that can gather your ashes. But if you want to take a walk on the wild side—ashtray-wise and zoologically—then consider the works of cigar-smoking silversmith Patrick Mavros, who takes inspiration from the animals of his native Zimbabwe. His repertoire includes five quite distinctive ashtrays, each done in sterling silver. The crocodile and monkey ashtray (pictured, £1,295, or about \$1,500) depicts two of Africa's most famous wild animals. A crocodile, tail coiled, serves as a seat for an unperturbed monkey, whose head in turn supports a silver platter, meant to hold a cigar. Adding to the monkey's charm (and remarkable sense of calm

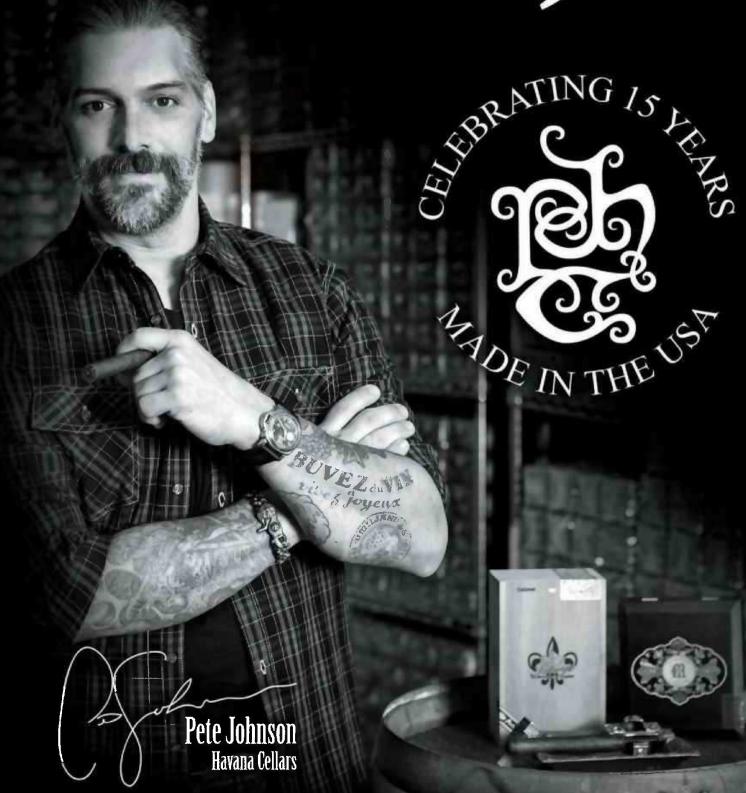
considering its riding atop one of the world's most deadly creatures) is that it is smoking an 18-karat gold cigar. The ashtray stands 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, and 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide at its fattest points.

Mavros makes ashtrays, cuff links, belt buckles, studs, jewelry and many other silver items in Zimbabwe on Mpata Farm. The 1,500-acre compound serves as a wildlife sanctuary and apparently as an inspiration to Mavros. His other larger models feature elephants, camels and lions, and are priced accordingly. While these pieces mightn't be for everybody, they'll certainly put some wildlife in your smoking room.

Visit www.patrickmavros.com.

-David Savona

# tatuaje



havanacellars.com



# Golf Sunglasses

Remember those oversized blue lenses that were supposed to help you look for lost golf balls, but made you look like the course nerd instead? Thankfully, they've gone the way of the wooden driver, replaced by links-specific sunglasses meant to actually help improve your game, even while preserving your sense of style.

For instance, Under Armour's UA Tuned Golf Lenses are designed specifically to enhance your ability to read greens, gauge distance and identify terrain nuances. The lenses are tinted—but not darkened—with a light-filtration profile that enhances vision in both sunny and shaded areas. Under Armour considered each potential shot, so the lenses are versatile enough to be worn throughout your round. You get all of the protection you need when teeing off into the sun, but won't have to remove your glasses to evaluate the distance of an approach shot in the shade. The lenses are fitted into Under Armour's Assist frames (\$99, at bottom), which resemble Ray-Ban's classic Wayfarer, but are made with lightweight and durable high-grade polyamide frames for functionality. Over a long day of golf, the Assist rests comfortably on the nose and above the ear without restricting or slipping with perspiration. Afterwards, you can switch into the UA Tuned Recovery Glimpse (\$110, second from bottom), with blue-tinted lenses for a restorative effect.

Run-of-the-mill shades block only low-energy UV-A rays. Oakley's Targetline (\$153, second from top) filters out UV-B, the medium-wave rays that cause short-term eye sensitivity and impair your game. The frames, made from a nylon-infused plastic that Oakley calls O-Matter, are created to be strong yet flexible and stay comfortable for longer periods of time. For the nose bridge, Oakley uses what it calls Unobtainium, a material also used on motorcycle handlebar grips for its ability to retain friction when wet.

Roka's new Halsey performance sunglasses (\$170, top), founded in 2013, places a variety of high-performance lenses inside fashionable lifestyle frames. Each model is designed for a specific sport, while the lens options cater to particular light conditions. For golf, we recommend the high-contrast, dark-bronze mirror lenses for bright to variably sunny conditions. These lenses come in a dark tortoise-shell frame that complements casual evening wear just as much as they do the modern golf getup. Wear them on the course, and afterwards on the patio with your post-round cigar.

Visit underarmour.com, oakley.com, roka.com.

-Blake Droesch





# **Urban Ax Throwing**

ooking for a novel date night? How about ax throwing? You heard that right. A new Brooklyn club called Kick Axe Throwing is dedicated to the sport—if you can call it that—a pastime popular enough that locations are coming to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Orlando, Los Angeles and Seattle. And, with children as young as eight allowed to throw, it seems only a matter of time until it becomes a venue for kids birthday parties.

Think of it as darts with hatchets—and booze. The club provides ax throwing ranges—cages might be more accurate—with two large wooden bullseyes per range. For \$35 a 75-minute session (beer and wine is extra) you and your friends can work out your primal need to throw sharp objects at defenseless targets.

Groups of eight or more get their own range. Our party of three threw with two couples we didn't know in advance. But throwing axes has a way of developing community quickly and there was an unmistakable "bro-y" vibe to the festivities. Which is not to say that women don't get into the ax-throwing spirit. There were plenty the night we went.

A session goes something like this: You're divided into teams and asked to come up with names. We chose "Splitting Hairs," our opponents, "Axcellent." We also thought of "Axcident" but that might have been cutting too close to the bone. Two players are invited onto the range where your "axpert" gives you a quick tutorial

on ax throwing. Feet planted, you grip the ax firmly with two hands, raise your arms over and behind your head, aim and throw. There are several fun games, but it's challenging enough just to get the weapon to stick to the wall—and not the ceiling. It's all about technique rather than strength.

Because beer and axes sound like a recipe for disaster, the axperts take safety seriously. They reserve the right to stop you from throwing if you seem intoxicated or throwing in an unsafe manner. Additional precautions include no open-toed shoes, only entering the range when invited, never handing off an ax (each range comes with its own rustic stump where you're supposed to place the supplied tool after your turn) and—who needs to be told this?—never trying to catch an ax.

Once we felt comfortable enough throwing our axes—comfort is a relative term when it comes to wielding an implement sometimes used as a plot device in horror films—our axpert showed us how to toss with one hand. But he demurred on showing us how to throw behind our backs—as he has mastered.

While I'd be lying if I said I felt more accomplished by the end of our session, some satisfaction came in removing ax throwing from my bucket list.

Visit kickaxe.com.

-Ralph Gardner Jr.



# The 8 Year Old Islay Malt with a taste for awards.









Our sweetly spiced, rich and smoky 8 Year Old is something of a prodigy and has already picked up a selection of prestigious awards. Try a glass and judge for yourself.





# LIGHT UP THE SCENE

You earned it.



Perfected over 152 years, yours to enjoy now.

**VISIT OUR BOOTH #233 AT IPCPR** 



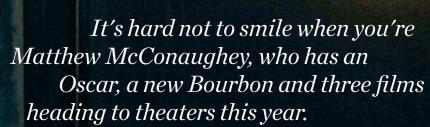


🖪 🍏 🌀 #LightUpYourSoul PlasenciaCigars.com









# Alright, Alright, Alright, Alright Alpha Alpha Alpha By Marshall Fine Alpha By John Russo

Marshall Fine portraits by John Russo styling: Tara Swennen for The Wall Group

grooming: Kara Yoshimoto Bua for Starworks Artists photographed at The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Los Angeles







o the outside observer, Matthew McConaughey's career underwent a serious course correction seven years ago. It was 2011, and they called it the "McConaissance." It was a much-vaunted, media-invented comeback narrative crafted around the actor, who had spent the 2000s seemingly adrift in a sea of light but successful romantic comedies, popcorn films that didn't match the promise he had shown in his earlier years.

But with a return to drama in hits such as *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Bernie* and *Killer Joe*, McConaughey reclaimed his leading-man luster, culminating in the acclaim for his performances in *Mud* and *The Paperboy*. Even as the drums were beating about his haunting work as a fire-eyed, driven lawmaker in the HBO series "True Detective," he was winning an Oscar, the ultimate comeback accessory, for his unforgettable starring performance in 2013's *Dallas Buyers Club*.

That's from the outside, looking in.

McConaughey is sitting on a makeshift stage in the outdoor beer garden of Contigo, an Austin, Texas, restaurant, on a sunny April afternoon. He sports a three-day beard and the tanned look of someone who spends a lot of time outdoors with his kids. For McConaughey, that comeback story feels like a stretch. If you ask him, he'll tell you he never went away.

"That whole thing was much less of a 180 for myself than people seemed to think," McConaughey says, relaxing in a low-back armchair. "There was this narrative of 'then' and 'now.' But for those previous few years, I never worked harder than I had. I didn't get a new acting coach or take a new class. I just said, 'Fuck

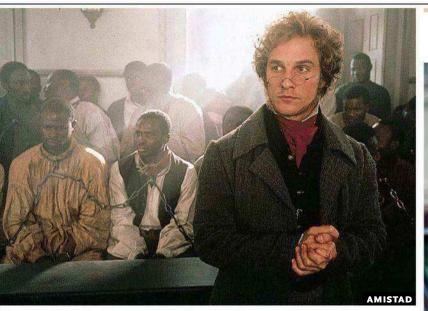
the bucks—I'm going for the experience' in the things I was choosing. And really, part of what worked for me is that I had fewer expectations about my career at that point. I quit trying to project how something would be received and decided to just be an actor for hire again. So I shut down my production company and my music company and simplified the things on my proverbial desk. I love being an actor and going as deep as you can in a role, to really commit to the craft. I put my head down and went after roles that scared me."

The 48-year-old McConaughey has a full head of wavy walnut-brown hair with glints of gold. Tall and lean, wearing a gray workshirt and a pair of jeans over square-toed boots, he's got ramrod posture and an easy smile. The milestone of 50 approaches, but McConaughey is unconcerned: "I'm not a numbers guy," he says. "I figure I'm in the eighth fairway and I'm hitting my second shot, with 18 holes in this particular fairy tale."

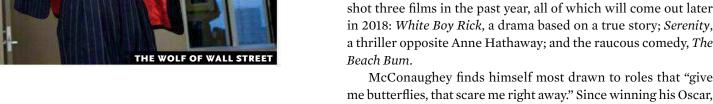
"He gets more and more interesting the older he gets," says director Yann Demange, who cast McConaughey in *White Boy Rick*, which will arrive in theaters in September. "In the past eight years, he's been extremely brave in his choices. He had a whole previous career—and then he pressed 'Stop' and went, 'Fuck that.' He talked to me about consciously wanting to try something different."

As he talks, McConaughey is waiting to speak at an event before a group of Texas liquor distributors, to help launch Wild Turkey Longbranch, a new blend of Bourbon the actor helped to create.

More than just a celebrity spokesman, McConaughey is the creative director for Wild Turkey, a position he's held since 2016.







possibilities of Bourbon. He wrote and directed a pair of short films for the brand, and collaborated with master distiller Eddie Russell in a two-year process to create Longbranch, which hit the American market in May.

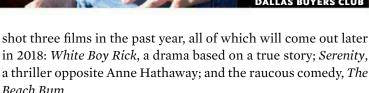
"They came to me about four years ago because they were interested in me being the face of the brand," McConaughey says. "I wasn't sure about that, but I kept sharing ideas with them about where the brand was going. I finally spent a couple of days in Kentucky with them

and I was intrigued by this iconic family story-because, really, it's an iconic American family tradition and Bourbon is an American invention. I was keen on introducing it to a younger generation, to show that Bourbon isn't just for 60-year-old guys sitting on their back porch as the sun goes down, looking back on their day."

Initially approached by the brand to be its famous face, McConaughev countered with his vision of how to introduce the

label to a generation of millennials who were just discovering the

McConaughey hasn't had much time for sitting on the back porch of late. Along with launching the new brand, McConaughey

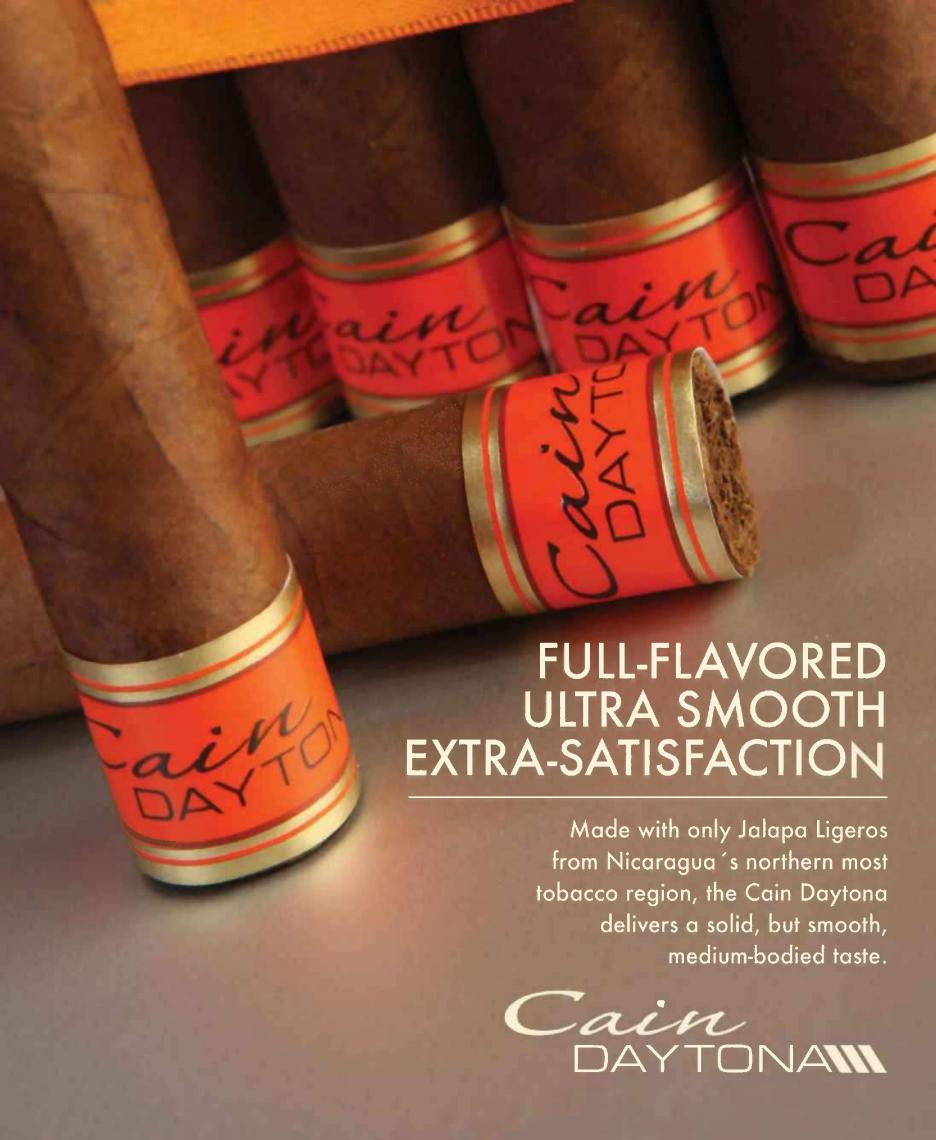


me butterflies, that scare me right away." Since winning his Oscar, he has taken on roles in films with blockbuster budgets (The Dark Tower, Interstellar), but has shied away from the kind of glossy star vehicles that dominated his resume in the first decade of this century. That's to take nothing away from the success of films like

### "I love being an actor and going as deep as you can in a role, to really commit to the craft. I put my head down and went after roles that scared me."

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days. "I still get residual checks from that movie," says comedian Robert Klein, who played McConaughey's boss in the 2003 film.

In going back to his independent roots on films such as Mud and Dallas Buyers Club, McConaughey reconnected with the energy and excitement that drew him to the process of making movies in the first place.



"You work faster and move quickly," he says happily. "There's no sitting around while they set up a shot for two or three hours. When I was making *Killer Joe* with William Friedkin, he did everything in one take. One take! Now there are two ways to take that. You can freeze up and think, 'What am I gonna do?' Or you just relax and use that as freedom, instead of fear."

The pressure on *Dallas Buyers Club* was similar: "When we were doing screenings of the film and talking afterward, I'd always get a gasp from the audience when I told them we shot it for \$4.9 million in 25 days."

McConaughey won the Oscar playing an unlikely—but real-life—HIV activist. When Texan Ron Woodroof is diagnosed with HIV in the mid-1980s, he creates a network to smuggle in treatments used outside of the United States. He sues the FDA and ultimately gets legal access to the drugs that would stretch his life expectancy by seven years.

McConaughey was coming off *Magic Mike*, in which he played a male stripper, and radically changed his physique to play the gaunt Woodroof. "I got in great physical shape for *Magic Mike*. Then I started losing weight and not working out. I did that through the filming of *Mud*, and, in five months, I lost 47 pounds for *Dallas Buyers Club*."

He knew the script was a good one "but I didn't foresee the work translating on the level that it did. I mean, you can look at *Dallas Buyers Club* and think, well, done right, this could be a 'fall release.' But really, I'd say, let's just call it a good drama. What I like about drama is that you don't have to act as much. They're closer to you. You just have to ask, 'What is the reality here? How can I tell the truth about this human behavior?' Drama gives an actor license to go as high or as low as he wants. The ceiling—and the basement—are more personal in a drama."

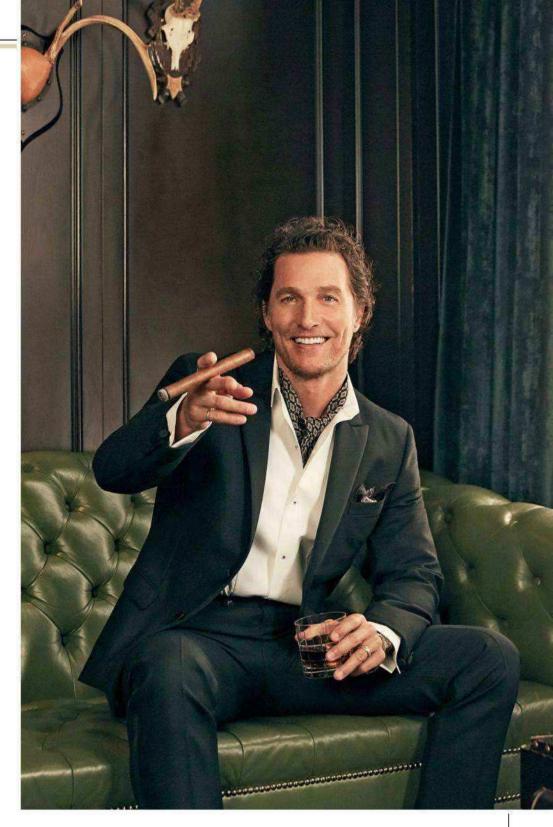
A veteran of more than two decades in Hollywood, McConaughey navigated the sometimes tricky currents of Oscar campaign season, he says, because the movie and performance spoke for themselves.

"I watched the finished film and thought, 'I'd shake hands with that,'" he says. "When I watch myself onscreen, if I see myself too much, I think,

'What's McConaughey doing up there?' But with this one, after the first scene, I was with Ron Woodroof. I thought the performance was true.

"I didn't have to bullshit or come up with an angle because I believed we had the goods. I never felt like I had to sell you on why you should like it. People connected to it on a personal level—and told us personal stories: 'My nephew had HIV and he went through this.' That's when art translates, when you know it's resonated with someone's life."

Winning the Oscar for that role meant "higher confidence and better choices in scripts," McConaughey says. "It's given me a larger, more qualitative platform. Making movies is still my favorite part of this. I like making them way better than watching



them. It's the magic, the 'Oh, what this could be' of it, that turns me on."

That was certainly the case with "True Detective," the critically acclaimed HBO series. McConaughey costarred with Woody Harrelson in the 2014 debut season (the second season, which aired in 2015, featured an entirely different cast and storyline) and both nabbed Emmy nominations for best actor in a drama series. The moody, unnerving tale of a murder investigation in rural Louisiana hit McConaughey as hard as it did the rest of the viewing public.

"That was like shooting a movie with a 450-page script—I never knew how they were going to edit it to tell the story," he says. "So I was watching it every Sunday, one episode at a time, the



# The Bourbon Project

 ↑ atthew McConaughey has been the creative director for Wild Turkey Bourbon since 2016. His first short film for the brand debuted that year, and now his greatest project has gone on sale: the new straight Bourbon brand Longbranch. McConaughey worked with Wild Turkey master distiller Eddie Russell on its creation. "As a lover of Bourbon." McConaughey says in a video for the brand, "I've always wanted to create my favorite Bourbon." The signatures of both men appear on the bottle, which is somewhat Spartan in design, with a smaller label, better to show off the amber liquid inside. Longbranch is an eight-year-old Bourbon

refined with mesquite and oak charcoals. The mesquite is a nod to the heritage of McConaughey, who was born in Uvalde, Texas, and today lives in Austin. Longbranch went on sale around the United States in May, and retails for just under \$40.



same as everybody else. I was as excited as anybody else to put the kids to bed and watch the latest episode every Sunday night. I was having the same water-cooler talk on Monday morning. I'm glad I got to watch it that way; I was wowed like everybody else."

The list of high-profile directors he's worked with is impressive, from Steven Spielberg (*Amistad*), to Ron Howard (*edTV*), Steven Soderbergh (*Magic Mike*) and Christopher Nolan (*Interstellar*.) He even worked with Martin Scorsese on *The Wolf of Wall Street*, in a brief but memorable appearance as a chanting, chest-thumping, coke sniffing boss who sits down to lunch and asks his waiter to bring him and his new hire Leonardo DiCaprio rounds of dry Martinis until one of them passes out.

"Marty has an incredible sense of humor—and he loves music," says McConaughey. "So we were communicating in almost musical terms. It wasn't even English."

Speaking in musical terms comes naturally to McConaughey. Whether discussing rhythm, tone or taste, he's likely to reach for a piece of musical vocabulary to express how he feels. Asked about the intersection of Bourbon and cigars, for example, McConaughey says, "They're two bass lines—and bass is my favorite instrument. It's this earthy, sophisticated, very outdoorsy combination: Bourbon and a cigar."

These days, McConaughey tends to enjoy most of his cigars while he's on the golf course. He likes a medium-sized Romeo y Julieta, but found himself smoking larger, maduro-wrapped cigars for the upcoming *The Beach Bum*, mirroring the film's director, Harmony Korine.

"I would partake of his—and I wound up smoking them onscreen," McConaughey says. "I got a real taste for them when we were filming in Miami."

The last time he spoke to CIGAR AFICIONADO (McConaughey was on the cover in April 2011), he mentioned liking the idea of holding on to a cigar to let it mature in a humidor. "I love the lineage of that, the patience to say, 'Ah, this will mature."

Time, he says now, figures heavily into his enjoyment of good cigars, which he typically does while sipping Bourbon or Port: "There's a ritual about smoking a cigar that slows my clock down. I'm a busy guy—so I like the chance to slow that clock down."

Part of that effort includes moving his family to Austin, the Texas state capital and home to his alma mater, the University of Texas, about 160 miles from his hometown of Uvalde. With its thriving economy, burgeoning tech sector and Sun Belt climate, Austin is the 11th-largest city in America and one of the fastest-growing, with both strivers and retirees causing the population to mushroom.

To McConaughey, the big city still has the soul of a village. The tricky part, he says, will be for it to maintain that sensibility even through current and future growing pains.

"We've got to remain tapped into a culture that's very soulful," he says. "When you get quick growth, you've got to be resilient to retain that culture. This city's sort of going through its adolescence with this fast growth. But you've got to maintain the values of the village in a growing metropolis. I believe this place can hold on. I don't want to be saying, 'Oh, I remember when it was great.' If we're growing, we have to grow for the better. I think that's where we're headed. I have too many friends who are taking about half the salary they could make somewhere else just to stay here."

He and wife Camila Alves McConaughey have two sons, nine, and five, and a daughter, eight. Making Austin his base means he's "taking time with my kids and my wife, giving myself time to follow those 3 a.m. ideas," he says. "I'm writing more, fundraising for my foundation (the Just Keep Livin Foundation, which funds after-school programs), getting to know my town again."

When McConaughey last graced CIGAR AFICIONADO'S cover, he and Alves had two children but had yet to tie the knot. At that point, McConaughey said, "Marriage—it's not something we feel we need to be complete. It doesn't mean we won't do it." The pair married in June 2012. So what changed?

"I mean, the clock was ticking-I was about to be 40 and my



### GRAND MARNIER° CUVÉE DU CENTENAIRE

PATRICK RAGUENAUD, Cellar Master & Master Blender

In 1927, Cuvée du Centenaire, an exceptional blend commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of La Maison du Marnier Lapostolle, was introduced. Today, Patrick Raguenaud, Cellar Master and Master Blender for Grand Marnier, continues this grand tradition. Patrick marries a refined blend of XO cognacs from the five best crus with the essence of exotic oranges, creating a perfect balance of smooth and intense flavors, best enjoyed neat or on a sphere. Cuvée du Centenaire is a blend so superb, the Ultimate Spirits Challenge\* awarded it 99 points as well as the Chairman's Trophy. Patrick's dedication to blending this beloved liqueur represents the passion at the center of the Culture of Campari Group.



camparigroup.com | @gruppocampari



# "I figure I'm in the eighth fairway and I'm hitting my second shot, with 18 holes in this particular fairy tale."

plan was to be married and have kids by that age," he says. "But I didn't want to play the game of starting to feel anxious because, with too much anxiety, you can't find a mate. And then you make a hasty decision. I knew men who had made hasty decisions and women who had done the same thing. But at that point, I wasn't hunting. And then this amazing woman walked across my field of vision and I thought, Who is that? And it was Camila."

Fatherhood has been a discovery. Kids "are who they are, right from the start," he says. "You can shepherd them, nudge them into position to be themselves. But each month they're more who they are than ever." His children have yet to see his face onscreen, for they've only been allowed to see two of their

dad's movies, the animated films for which he provided character voices: 2016's *Kubo and the Two Strings* and *Sing*. The rest of the filmography will have to wait.

Back at the Bourbon event in Austin, McConaughey is walking around, mingling comfortably with several dozen liquor distributors. He and Eddie Russell have concluded a presentation explaining the origin of Wild Turkey Longbranch. The pair chatted about the process of refining the blend, how they hit on the idea of adding mesquite charcoal to give a Texas twang to the distinctive Kentucky whiskey, and what particular time it was when McConaughey called Russell with great enthusiasm, to wake him up after tasting what became the ultimate blend.

"I think I called him at 2 a.m.," McConaughey starts, to which the laconic Russell puts it, "It was more like 4."

Russell also notes that the actor had considerable influence on the blend's bottle design. The discrete

label takes up less than a third of the Longbranch bottle's distinctive geometric front and features both McConaughey's and Russell's signatures, above raised-glass lettering.

"I didn't want a big-ass label," McConaughey says. "And I wanted it to have shoulders and hips—like a great car or a beautiful woman."

After the presentation, McConaughey works the crowd, just another Texan with an appreciation for strong brown liquor, although one with whom everyone in attendance wants their picture taken.

"I dealt with him quite a lot during the process and it was a fun ride for me," Russell says. "I was surprised at how down-to-earth he is. You think about how a big movie star will be but he was just a big family man. And that's what it's about for us at Wild Turkey.

"He's a real authentic guy. He took his own path, which is something Jimmy (Russell, Eddie's 83-year-old father, still a Wild Turkey master distiller) always did. It's a big company, but it's still a very family-type business."

McConaughey's distinctive voice and phrasing made his ads for Lincoln automobiles stand out, as they do with the films he's created for Wild Turkey. And he recently added another brand to the lineup.

"I just signed an endorsement deal with Carl's Jr. because I love beef," he says with a smile. "So I've got Carl's Jr., Lincoln and Wild

Turkey Longbranch: beef, Bourbon and cars," he says, referring to the long American heritage that unites the three products. "They're three things I really like," he says.

McConaughey walks through life with the sort of ease that comes with being comfortable in your own skin. Notes Demange, "He's grounded, as a family man with three kids. Most good actors have the comfort—but some of that can be arrogance. Matthew still wants to learn and grow. He's still open to having experiences. He can still discover—and, as a result, we discover different sides of him."

That comfort includes a sense of self-awareness—as well as a distinct ability to articulate his introspection into his own motivation and drive.

"I work everyday to do my best to know who the heck I am," he says. "I'm not going to walk out the door and try to be anybody else. I'm not one of those guys where you're going to uncover some Pandora's box of who I really was. That's what 'just keep livin'

means. I've got the right to be me and, as a citizen of the world, to live my life. That was inherent to me long before I was famous. I'm still living my life and am going to be myself. I owe that to myself—and to my family and my father and my lineage.

"I'm not saying that as a pride thing. But it's a right I pay a lot of respect to. You've got to watch in life who's wagging who—is the dog wagging the tail or the tail wagging the dog? I've noticed the tail wagging me from time to time and I have to say, Hold on—I want to be the one doing the wagging." \*

Contributing editor Marshall Fine is critic-in-residence at The Picture House Regional Film Center in Pelham, NY.







MY FATHER

CIGARS

Don Pepín García

FAMILY



LA GRAN OFERTA

20 Free awall

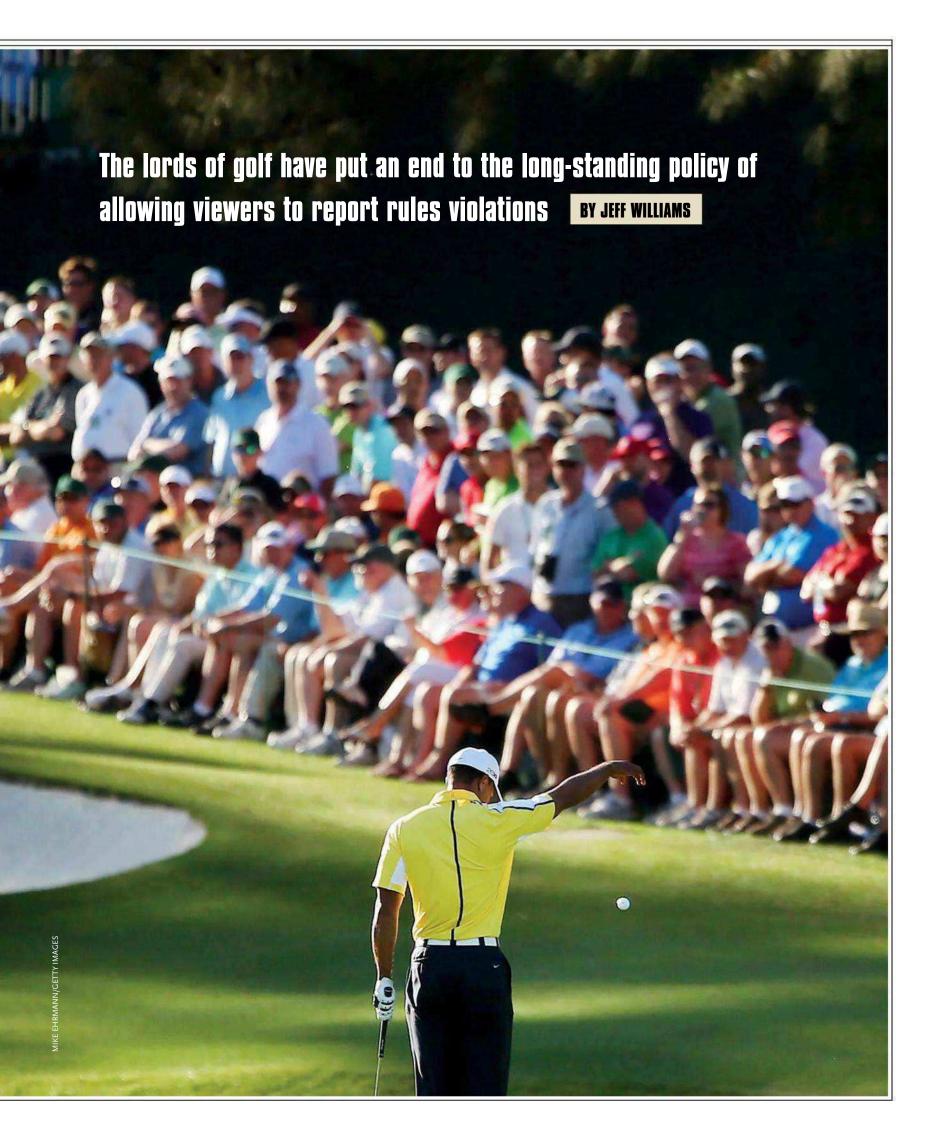
ER CIGARS

风下原图图

LA GRAN OFERTA

305.468.9501 | MYFATHERCIGARS.COM





n a perfectly pure Sunday afternoon in April of 2017, Lexi Thompson was leading the ANA Inspiration by two strokes and cruising. It was the first LPGA major of the year, and was the tour's flagship event.

Thompson won it in 2014 when it was called the Kraft Nabisco Championship, and while she had achieved superstar status, that remained her sole victory in a major event. She seemed poised to double up as she played the back nine.

As Thompson walked to the 13th tee, tour officials confronted her with some decidedly bad news. She was being penalized for incorrectly replacing her ball on the 17th green of Saturday's round, the result of a television viewer notifying the LPGA by e-mail. She was being assessed two strokes for the incorrect replacement, and another two strokes for signing an incorrect scorecard for the Saturday round.

"Are you kidding?" she replied.

No, they weren't.

She went from two shots up to two shots down. Tearing up, Thompson gamely trundled on, losing the tournament in a play-off. But the golf world was shaken by what had happened to her. For nearly four decades there had been a series of rules infractions pointed out by viewers citing a breach of the rules that led to penalties being assessed, some leading to disqualification.

Why, professional players had been asking for years, are people outside the ropes, outside the golf course or even outside the state, allowed to weigh in on rules infractions? In a sport where honesty is the only policy, where players call infractions on themselves, why do television viewers have any say at all?

As of 2018, they don't. In December of 2017, the USGA and the Royal & Ancient, in conjunction with the professional golf tours, announced that television viewer input would no longer be considered. Watch, don't tell.

A statement issued by Thomas Pagel, the USGA's senior director of rules, addressed and amended a situation that the pro players had been requesting. "The message we're putting out to fans is, What you've seen, we've seen," Pagel said. "Have confidence in us running the event. We want you to be a fan. Enjoy watching the world's best players. Let the rules be handled inside the ropes between the players and officials."

The rulers of golf announced that officials will be designated to watch the television broadcast and make rulings when deemed necessary. Those assessments are to be based on "reasonable judgment" and "naked eye" standards, and not ultra-slo-mo, hidefinition reviews. Additionally, the two-stroke penalty for signing an incorrect scorecard when the player did not know they had violated the rules was eliminated.

At least one player had been penalized by the new video review procedure by early May. Nicole Broch Larsen was penalized one shot for causing her ball to move while at rest during the second round of the LPGA's Volunteers of America Texas Classic. Broch Larsen thought she had finished at 7 under, but was told that a video review had found she caused her ball to move on the fourth hole. Instead of a birdie, the penalty gave her a par. An on-course



rules official, after being consulted by Broch Larsen, deemed there was no penalty against her. Because she was following the direction of the official, Broch Larsen did not receive an additional penalty from playing her ball from the wrong place.

PGA rules official Slugger White summed up the television conundrum that professional golfers face. "Everybody is on TV now. They're televising 18 holes. They are scrutinized more," White says. "That's the price of success, I guess. It would have been nice to be on TV all the time. It means you're playing good and making a lot of money."

In light of these changes, CIGAR AFICIONADO is recapping 10 of the most famous television viewer incursions into the golf rules world, including one that involved the most famous player of the 21st Century.

### Thompson Misses The Mark

On the 17th hole of Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California, Lexi Thompson was leading the ANA Inspiration Tournament on Saturday afternoon and everything was going along swimmingly. She had marked her ball before putting, but when she replaced it, a television viewer noticed that she didn't seem to place it back in front of her mark, but somewhat off to the side. Well after the round had concluded, an e-mail to the LPGA was passed along to officials.

Thompson was leading by two shots after 12 holes on Sunday. That's when she was approached by LPGA officials and told that she was being assessed four penalty strokes for her

# INTRODUCING BUCHANAN'S SELECT

A MOMENT 15 YEARS IN THE MAKING





actions on Saturday, two strokes for not replacing the ball correctly and two strokes for signing an incorrect scorecard. She went from the lead to trailing by a stroke, and was clearly emotionally shaken.

Tiger Woods had been watching, and tweeted: "Viewers at home should not be officials wearing stripes. Let's go, @Lexi, win this thing anyway."

Thompson made three birdies coming in to tie So Yeon Ryu, forcing a playoff that she lost. But in the end, she likely won enough sympathy from major golf officials across the board that the input of television viewers would no longer be allowed.

#### Stadler's Terrible Towel

Probably the most famous viewer intrusion of its time was Craig Stadler's penalty and eventual disqualification from the 1987 Shearson Lehman Brothers Andy Williams Open in San Diego. Stadler had thrown in the towel, or rather, it was thrown at him.



On the 14th hole in the Saturday round, Stadler's wayward drive ended up in the rough under a cypress tree with low hanging branches. The only way Stadler could play any kind of shot was from his knees, trying to scythe the ball from under the branches. The area was mucky from overnight rain and he didn't want to get his white pants messy, so he took a towel from his bag and laid it on the grass, then knelt down on it to chop at a ball that went only a few feet.

On Sunday afternoon, the opening of the television broadcast replayed the incident. That's when several viewers called the tournament, wondering if Stadler might have violated a rule about building a stance—that is creating a favorable stance artificially. But none of this was relayed to him during the round. He made a 35-footer for birdie on the 18th hole to finish in a three-way-tie for second place—or so he thought.

"I walk off the green and [PGA Tour rules official] Glenn Tait is standing there and says, 'Nice putt, don't sign your card,' "Stadler says. After a discussion in the rules trailer, Stadler was penalized two strokes for the Saturday round, and since he had signed for a lower score he was disqualified. That \$37,500 check got canceled.

"That disqualification for the tree took me out of everything," says Stadler. "I missed [the season ending Nabisco] by \$10,000 which was guaranteed money, and bonuses. It cost me about 150 grand."

Stadler did get a measure of revenge. When the tree was dying in 1995, he was invited to help cut it down. "Gladly," he says.

### **Watson's Bad Advice**

This might be the first high-profile viewer call-in that led to a very high-profile player being penalized. It was not what was seen, but what was heard. During the final round of the Tournament of Champions at La Costa in 1980, Tom Watson was playing

with Lee Trevino. Watson was leading by a bunch, on cruise control. Trevino wasn't playing up to his standard and had been grousing about it.

Then a microphone on a tee picked up Watson giving Trevino advice about his stance and ball position. Under the rules of golf, players are not allowed to give advice to other players during the round. The overarching label for this is "protecting the field." A viewer called the La Costa Resort and the information was relayed to Tour officials. When Watson completed his round, he was told about the infraction and the ensuing two-shot penalty. He signed a scorecard for two strokes higher, but won the tournament anyway.

### Streck Breaks A Branch

Two years later at the exact same tournament on the exact same course, Ron Streck ran afoul of another television viewer.

Streck was in contention on Sunday when his drive on the 16th hole ended up under a tree. The television camera was on him as he attempted to take a stance in the awkward situ-

ation, with a small twig of a branch in his face. Streck bent, then broke the twig before playing his shot. The phone rang at the resort. Apparently more than one viewer was questioning whether breaking the twig was allowed under the rules of golf. It was not. You can bend, but you can't break.

Streck ended up with a disappointing three-putt on the 18th hole that knocked him out of a share of the lead, but it didn't matter because Lanny Wadkins took control on the way home. Streck thought he had finished in solo second place. In the scoring trailer he was told by officials that he was being penalized two shots for the twig incident, and that penalty dropped him into a tie for second, costing him more than \$14,000.

"They made the call in the NBC trailer an hour and 10 minutes after it had happened," Streck said then. "I think that is very unfair to me."







### 12 REGIONAL EVENTS ACROSS THE U.S. BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER.

Raise \$13,000 or more to qualify your team for the Grand Finale in Palm Beach, Florida.

US EVENTS	LOCATION	DATE	PRICE PER PLAYER
PGA National Champion Course	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	4/30/18	\$650
Duke University Golf Club	Durham, NC	5/21/18	\$550
Capital City Club Crabapple Course	Milton, GA	5/22/18	\$950
The Philadelphia Cricket Club	Flourtown, PA	7/16/18	\$1,000
Sahalee Country Club	Sammamish, WA	7/30/18	\$650
Conway Farms Golf Club	Lake Forest, IL	8/20/18	\$950
CordeValle Golf Club	San Martin, CA	8/30/18	\$950
Harbour Town Golf Links	Hilton Head Island, SC	9/10/18	\$650
TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm	Potomac, MD	9/10/18	\$950
Windsong Farm Golf Club	Maple Plain, MN	9/17/18	\$550
Trump National Golf Club Bedminster	Bedminster, NJ	9/18/18	\$950
The Club at Carlton Woods	The Woodlands, TX	10/1/18	\$600

Connect with us!







SIGN UP ONLINE WWW.E4AGOLF.COM





Presented By:





#### **Penalized For Practice**

In August 2010, Juli Inkster was in contention at the LPGA's Safeway Classic in North Plains, Oregon. She was stuck with a long delay on the 10th tee during the second round with nothing much to do but wait.

After nearly a half hour, she decided to loosen up with some practice swings, but instead of simply swinging a club, she took out a training device, a donut-shaped ring that adds weight to the clubhead to stretch the muscles a bit. It was clearly a training aid.

A viewer reached the tournament and questioned the legality of such a maneuver. The LPGA officials contacted the USGA about it, but it was pretty clear—using a swing aid during play, even when not using it to make an official stroke—is a serious breach of the rules.

How serious? Disqualification.

Inkster was told about it right after the round, and predictably left in a huff. "It had no effect on my game whatsoever, but it is what it is," Inkster would say in a statement issued later. "I'm very disappointed."

#### **Azinger's Aquatic Adventure**

Paul Azinger shot a 69 in the first round of the 1991 Doral Ryder Open, after making bogey on the 18th after he had hit his tee ball into the water hazard down the left. The ball was just barely in the hazard, so Azinger decided to take off his shoes and socks and play the ball from the water, with the television camera recording the rare aquatic adventure. As he tried to get a solid stance, he moved a piece of coral with his foot. He managed to smash the ball out a few yards, eliminating the need for a penalty drop.

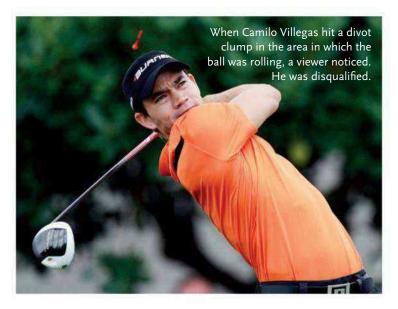
A television viewer saw it and the next day managed to reach rules officials to report the incident, saying that Azinger had



moved a loose impediment in a hazard, a breach of the rules. When officials reviewed the tape, they concurred. Since they were concurring on Friday, a day later, that was particularly bad news.

They informed Azinger that he was being assessed a two-shot penalty for the infraction, and because it was being added to his first-round scorecard, he would be disqualified for signing for a lower score. Azinger appealed directly to PGA commissioner Deane Beman about it, but Beman said there was nothing he could do, that rules officials make the calls.

Well, not all of them.



#### **Camilo's Moving Violation**

Camilo Villegas had missed the 15th green on the Plantation Course at Kapalua during the first round of the 2011 Tournament of Champions. It was down a slippery slope and required a delicate pitch to get the ball up the bank and anywhere close to the hole.

Villegas' first effort didn't reach the green surface and rolled back down the hill. His second attempt did the same thing, though this time—as the ball was still moving—Villegas used his wedge to swat away a morsel of divot clump. A viewer placed a phone call to Maui to report that Villegas had broken a rule. And so he had.

When the ball is in motion, you cannot remove any loose impediment that might influence the ball's movement and final resting place. It was clearly moving toward the detritus of Villegas' divot.

Villegas had finished his round and signed his scorecard

when he was informed the next day of the penalty, which led to automatic disqualification at the time.

"If somebody called something in, I probably did something wrong," he said with a shrug on that Friday, which was his birthday.

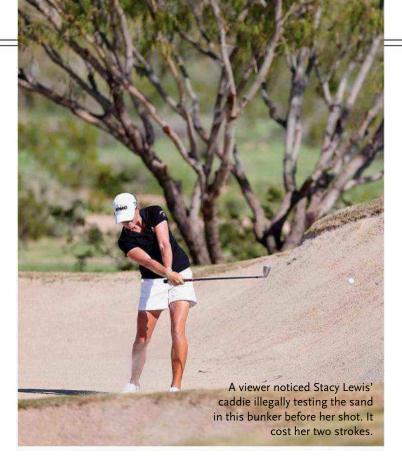
#### The Sands Of Stacy Lewis

At the LPGA Founders Cup in 2013, Stacy Lewis was humming along nicely in contention on Saturday when she drove a ball into a fairway bunker on the 16th hole. She and her caddie Travis Wilson were standing in the bunker contemplating the shot. A Golf

Channel viewer thought that Wilson had moved his foot deliberately in the sand and contacted the tournament. The question was if Wilson was testing the sand, which would be a penalty.

When Lewis walked off the 18th green after making a birdie, she thought she had shot 66. But LPGA officials were there to report that there might be an infraction and she and her caddie were asked to come to the scoring trailer to review footage of the situation in the bunker on 16.

The video was slowed down and she could see Wilson's foot move and hear the crunch of the sand. At the time, their



discussion was about the sand itself with Lewis asking Wilson about its firmness. Since neither caddie nor player is allowed to test the condition of sand in a designated bunker, it was a two-shot penalty. She had to sign for a 68.

"It's a ruling on intent," Lewis said then. "Our whole purpose of that shot was to find out how much sand was in the bunker. That's the unfortunate part."

There was a happy ending. She trailed by four shots going into the final round instead of two, but she blistered the course for a 64 on Sunday to win.

#### Lee Janzen's Wait

Lee Janzen was amazed that his putt on the 17th green, sitting right on the lip of the cup, hadn't fallen in. It was the first round of the 1998 World Series of Golf at the Firestone Country Club and Janzen, coming off his second U.S. Open victory that sum-

mer, was having a decent day. But why wouldn't this putt drop?

Then it did, probably a good 20 seconds after it had reached the lip. The crowd cheered and Janzen was pleased with his birdie 3.

When Janzen arrived at the course the following morning, on

his 34th birthday, tour officials wanted to see him. A television viewer had gotten a phone message through that Janzen had violated a rule by taking more than 10 seconds to stroke the next putt. Timing a video review, it was clear that he had taken at least 20.

The rules of golf state that if a putt on the lip hangs there for more than 10 seconds it is deemed to have come to rest and the next stroke must be played. Jansen waited too long, and in doing so should have assessed himself a two-shot penalty. He didn't and thus was disqualified.

Happy birthday.

#### Tiger's Drop Seen 'Round The World

The Tiger Woods saga at the 2013 Masters went from late on Friday afternoon until the next morning, with a flurry of phone calls, texts and discussions. It all started with Woods' shot on the 15th hole, which was too perfect. Forced to lay up on the par 5, his wedge approach struck the flagstick and rebounded back into the pond in front of the green. So now Woods had to take a penalty drop from where he hit that pitch. Where he took that drop was questioned by a television viewer. Not just any television viewer, not just any armchair arbiter: This was David Eger, a former USGA and PGA Tour tournament official who had worked the Masters, was an expert in the rules of golf and now was a Champions Tour player.

Eger was home in Florida, watching the Masters on TV and helping his wife with some gardening, going in and out of the house. When he took a look at the telecast he noticed that Woods had lost a shot. Wondering what happened, he rewound the coverage and saw Woods dunk his pitch on 15, then take a drop. Rewinding it several times, he noticed that Woods had dropped the ball in the wrong place. Eger needed to contact someone in a hurry: if it was also noticed by others, but after Woods signed his card, he could be disqualified for not adding two shots.

"I knew it was going to be a penalty. I was just trying to save Tiger," Eger told CIGAR AFICIONADO.

The rules of golf required Woods to drop the ball as close to where he played it from as possible. There was a divot hole from that previous shot, but he dropped it several feet behind that divot. He did not request help from rules officials on the drop, and in a quick ESPN interview after signing his card, he said he had dropped it about two yards behind the divot hole.

The interview came after he signed his card, the thing that Eger was trying to prevent. Eger had immediately called PGA Tour official Michael Bradley who was working the tournament, but he had just left the grounds. He also sent a text to him outlining the violation. The drop had been seen on video by officials at the course, but nothing was said.

Bradley reached Fred Ridley, then the Augusta competition

committee chairman (and today the club chairman) who first said the distance that Woods had dropped from the divot was "splitting hairs." But later that evening, CBS commentator Jim Nantz told Ridley of Woods' comment on the ESPN show and that there was

Twitter chatter about the legality of the drop.

-TIGER WOODS

"Viewers at home should not

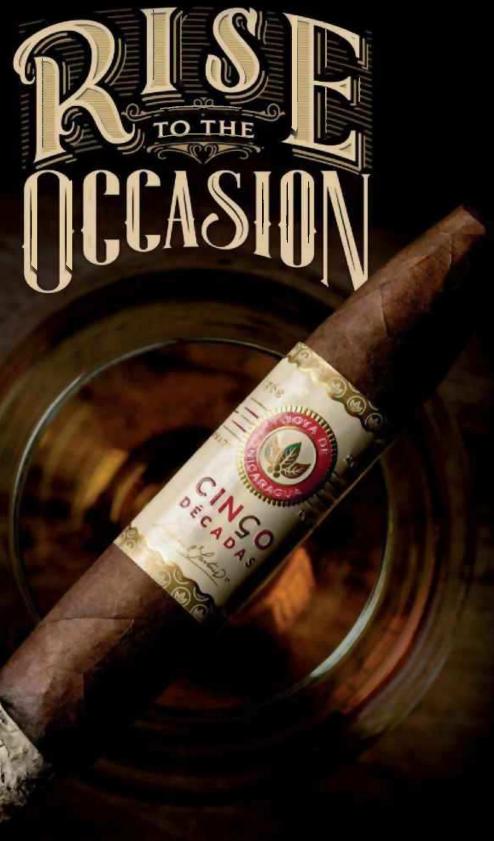
be officials wearing stripes."

On Saturday morning, Ridley and rules officials met with Woods and decided that he had taken an incorrect drop and would be penalized two strokes but would not be disqualified, certainly owing to the fact that Ridley at first didn't think Woods had done anything wrong.

Eger's call, while adding two shots to Woods' scorecard, likely ended up preventing him from being disqualified. ❖

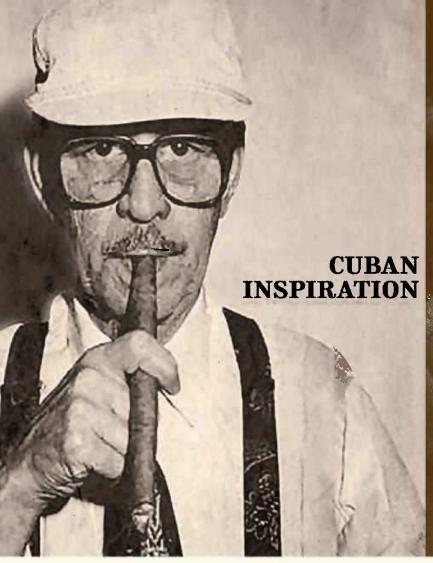
Jeff Williams is a Cigar Aficionado contributing editor.

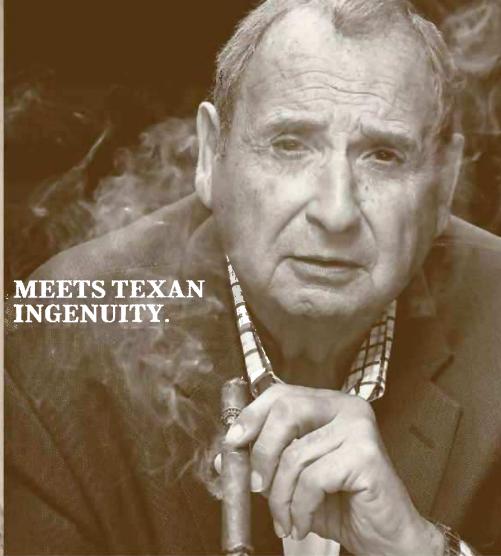




BEING FIRST, BEING THE BEST, OR JUST BEING.

50 years as pioneers and leaders of the Nicaraguan cigar industry deserved a superb tribute. Cheers to an outstanding past and even brighter future.





Micallef Cigars, handcrafted by the Gómez Sánchez family

Micallef Cigars is an alliance between two great families - the Micallef family, whose unwavering commitment to quality has generated successful business ventures worldwide, and the Cuban-born Gómez Sánchez family, who have been handcrafting award winning, expertly blended cigars since 1934.





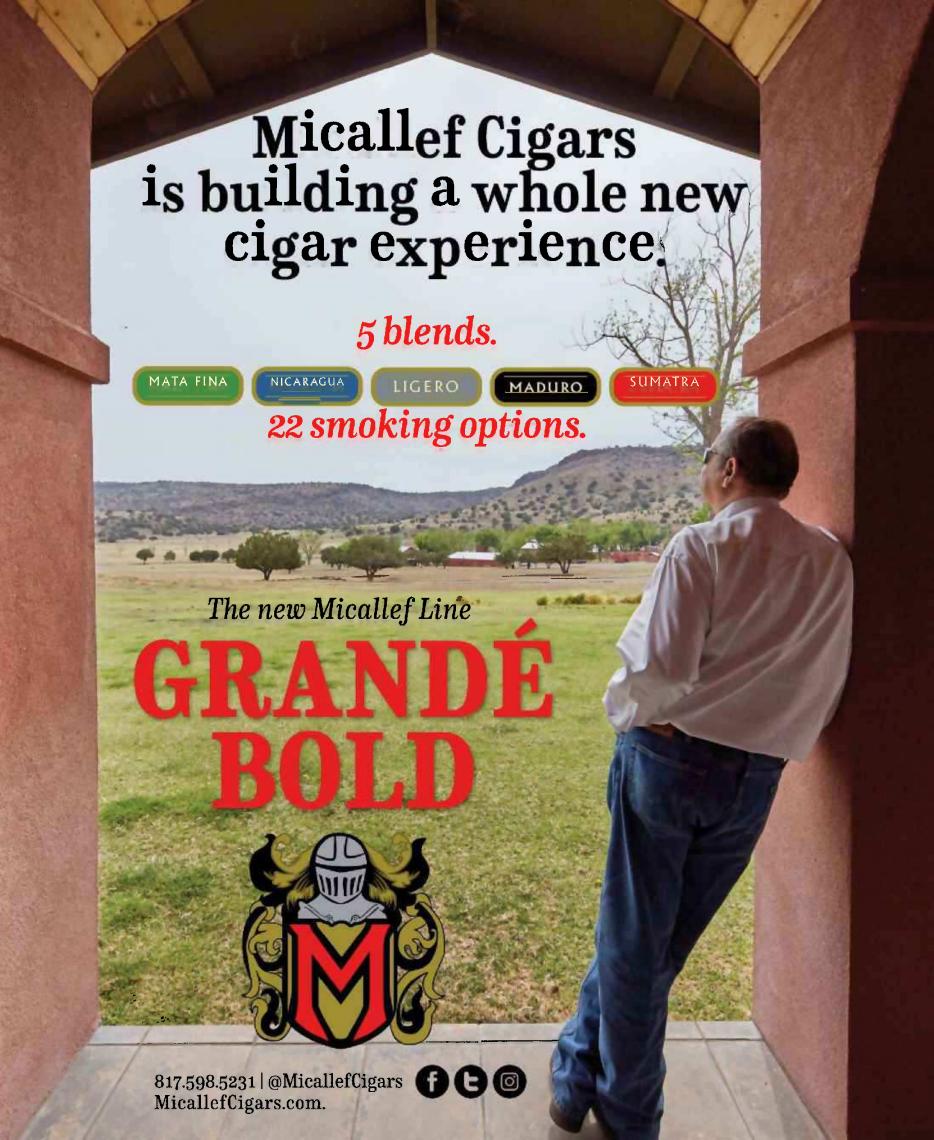


Excellence in blending and in business - it's a family tradition. Learn more about our legacy and our future at MicallefCigars.com.





Gomez Sanchez Family 1934 Ultra-Premium Line



# MIRACLE

Las Vegas fell in love with the Golden Knights even before the first-year hockey team played for the Stanley Cup BY ANDREW NAGY

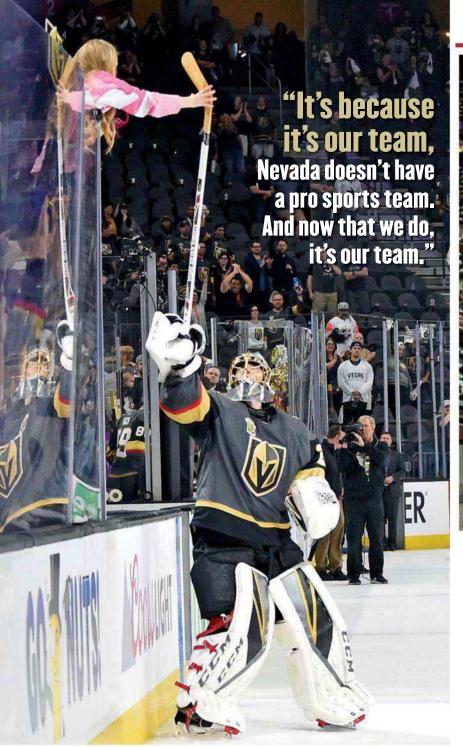
s my cab drove down the Las Vegas Strip, I noticed a new palette of colors standing out against the bright pools of neon so famously associated with Sin City. Patches of black, gold, steel gray and red were everywhere, on T-shirts, on hats and on the billboards of local businesses. The colors are the symbol of the new pride of Sin City and the biggest Cinderella story in all of sports—the Vegas Golden Knights of the National Hockey League.

The Knights have matured from the NHL's newest desert experiment into the hottest ticket in town. Even if you don't follow the NHL, you've probably still heard of the team's unlikely success. The Golden Knights played their first game ever on October 6 (a victory), and went on to amass one of the best home records during the NHL's 2017–2018 regular season, winning the Pacific Division. They swept the Los Angeles Kings in the first round of the NHL playoffs, beat the San Jose Sharks in the second round and then defeated the Winnipeg Jets to earn the right to play for the Stanley Cup against the Washington Caps. Although Vegas fought hard in the Cup Final, they lost in five games.

Still, expansion teams just aren't supposed to be this good, this fast. Can you imagine a first-year Major League Baseball team in the World Series? An NFL team playing in the Super Bowl in its inaugural season? An expansion NBA team making it to the championship? No team in those leagues has ever played in the big game in their first year. And in hockey, you have to go back 50 years—all the way to the 1967–68 St. Louis Blues—to find an expansion NHL team





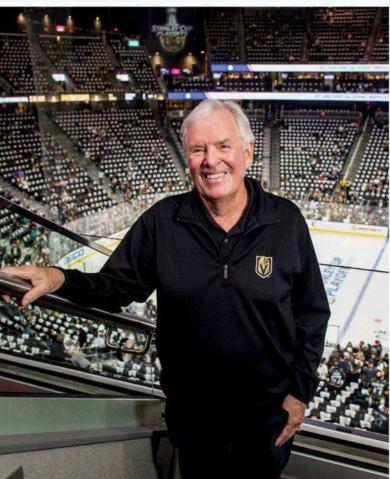


Vegas loves the Golden Knights, and the Knights love the people of Vegas. Above, All-Star goalie Marc-André Fleury hands a stick to a young fan. Top right, team owner Bill Foley above the home ice at T-Mobile Arena.

with comparable success to the Golden Knights. But even that comparison falls flat, because the Blues were one of six teams added to the league that year, all of which were put in the same conference, and in those days only four teams in each conference made the playoffs, so the Blues (who were swept in four games in the Stanley Cup Finals) faced a much easier path.

Simply put, the Golden Knights have done better in year one than any pro sports team in history. And the people of Sin City absolutely love them.

Vegas' embracement of the only local major league sports team in town (until the Raiders arrive in 2020) wasn't subtle. After all, this is Las Vegas, where you go big or go home. In April, just as the Golden Knights were beginning their historical playoff run, the New York-New York Hotel & Casino draped a Golden



Knights home jersey over its 150-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty. Farther down the Strip, a Vegas Golden Knights rally flag was placed in the outstretched hand of the Augustus Caesar statue in front of Caesars Palace.

During a visit to Vegas, I set out to find out why the city in the desert so closely associated with gambling, vices and conferences fell so quickly in love with its new toy.

"It's because it's our team," says Edward, my cab driver. "Nevada doesn't have a pro sports team. And now that we do, it's our team."

Golden Knights owner Bill Foley echoed this sentiment. Like most, Foley assumed Las Vegans visited the Strip all the time. Then he moved to nearby Summerlin in 2015 and had a realization: Locals rarely visit the Strip. In fact, most Las Vegans intentionally avoid it. "What dawned on me is we are bringing something for local residents to identify with and be a part of," he tells me before a game. "And it's true. It's not 'the Strip.' It's their own team."

A bartender offered a different reason, one that's a little deeper. The Golden Knights home-opener was October 10, 2017, only nine days after the tragic Mandalay Bay mass shooting in which 58 people were killed. Recognizing that Las Vegans were grieving and in dire need to heal emotionally, the players wanted to do something to help. So they reached out to first-responders and families affected by the tragedy. During the pregame ceremony of the Knights' first home game, the players were each escorted out to the ice by a first-responder. The names of the victims were emblazoned onto the ice, and a 58-second moment was held to honor those who lost their lives. The team even went so far as to retire jersey No. 58.

"You want to identify your city with something, anything, other than that tragedy," says the bartender, who declined to give

# BORN IN LOS ALTOS DE JALISCO

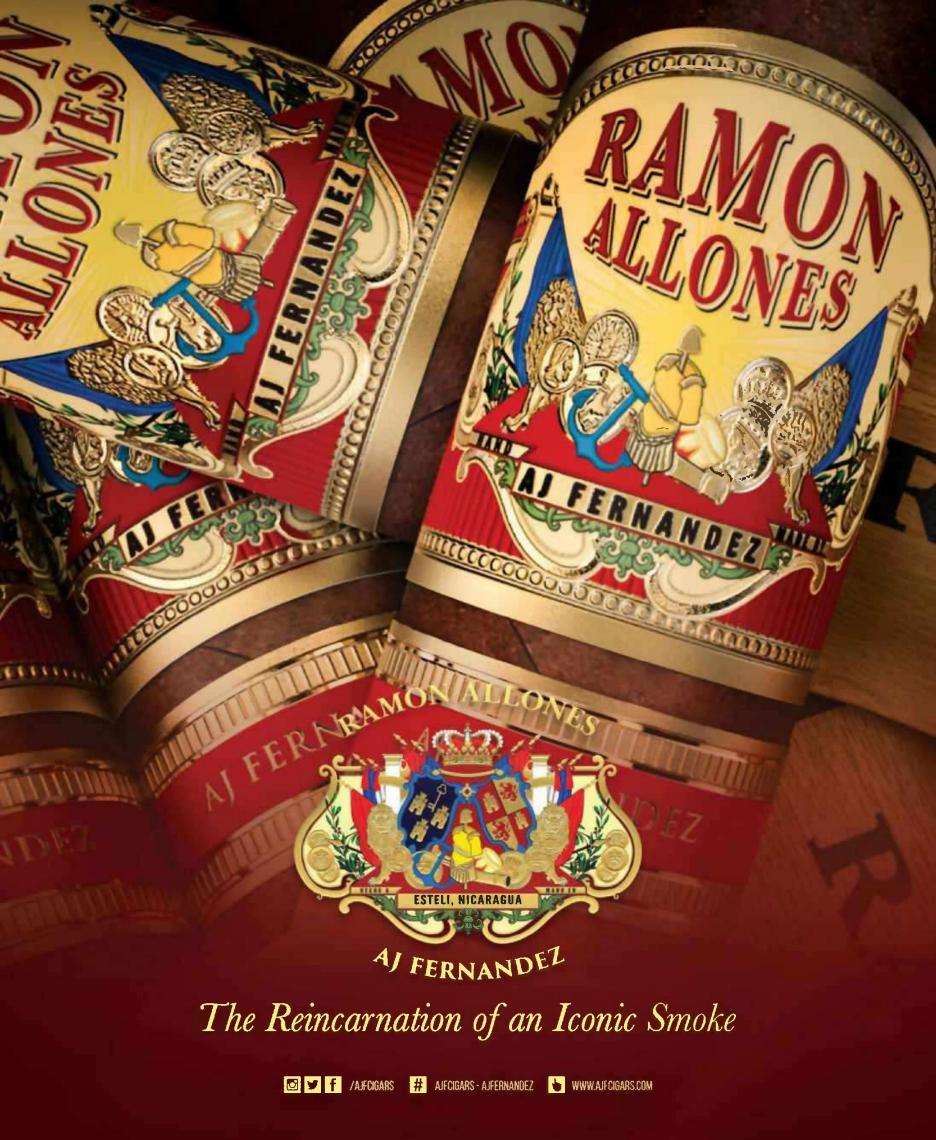
MANNY HINOJOSA Tequila Expert

> ARTURO GUTIÉRREZ Cantinero, Bar Imperial

# TEQUILA DAZADULA SALADULA

IOO% AGAVE

LOS CAZADORES TOMAN CON RESPONSABILIDAD. DRINK RESPONSIBLY. ©2018. CAZADORES, THEIR TRADE DRESSES AND THE DEER LOGO ARE TRADEMARKS. IMPORTED BY TEQUILA CAZADORES U.S.A., SEAL 8EACH, CA. TEQUILAS EACH - 40% ALC. BY VOL.





The Vegas Golden Knights (in black) fighting for the puck against the Washington Capitals in the 2018 Stanley Cup Finals.

me her name. "And the team helped us find that something. With such a senseless act, you want to try and come together to find some sort of sense and logic."

The players "went to the convention center where people were still trying to figure out if someone was still alive or not," says Foley. "They went to the hospitals and they saw people who had been wounded. I mean it was pretty gut wrenching for these guys, but they were just fantastic."

The Golden Knights have endeared themselves to the local community in other ways as well, particularly in their practices, which have become something of legend. The team works out in a new \$30 million, 146,000-square-foot rink called City National Arena, also located in Summerlin. Whereas most NHL teams practice with perhaps a few fans onlooking, anywhere from 500 to 1,000 energetic fans routinely visit the rink (admission for practice is free of charge) to cheer and watch their Golden Knights participate in drills.

On the day that I visit, I'm sitting next to a father and mother with three kids. All are wearing some sort of Golden Knights gear, and the children are each holding knee-hockey sticks. While the dad was a hockey fan even before the Golden Knights came on the scene, it was hard to get his kids into the sport.

"Now that they have an NHL team they can watch every night, they are fans," he says, with a big grin. His son rattles off his favorite players while he watches them intently.

Moments after the practice ends, one of the players skates off the ice. Instead of heading to the locker room, he walks straight to a crowd of young fans to sign autographs. Around 30 kids are there, and the player doesn't leave until he has signed for each one. In fact, he wants to give a lucky kid his stick. Wanting to spread the love around, though, he breaks his stick in two to hand a piece to two kids. Their eyes light up. Later that night, I'm at Game 5 of the Golden Knights second round playoff series against the Sharks. The pregame inside T-Mobile arena, simply put, is the best I've ever witnessed at a hockey game. A \$1 million LED light setup in the rafters flashes images of the players to the ice as 18,000 screaming fans wave white towels. Then the lights darken, and the crescendo of *The Avengers* theme song blasts through the arena's speakers. The words "Vegas, Are You Ready?" appear on the ice and on the scoreboard (or the Knight Tron as it's called).

Suddenly, a skater dressed in black and holding a Sharks flag skates onto the ice. The crowd boos and hisses. On the other side of the ice, another actor, dressed in golden armor, skates out. The two then do battle, in a choreographed fight reminiscent of the shows put on at the Excalibur Hotel just up the street. The Golden Knight prevails, stabbing his sword into the enemy. The crowd erupts, and a sound meter on the Knight Tron hits 105 decibels. The building is literally vibrating underneath my seat, and I find it impossible not to get caught up in the energy.

For most of the first period, the Golden Knights' forecheck is relentless. The Sharks just can't seem to find an answer, and the Knights just keep pressing their offense, wave after wave. Finally, with only seconds left in the period, forward James Neal slams home a rebound and the crowd noise following the goal is so loud I can't hear the sound of the horn as the period ends. The team doesn't stop there, eventually building a 4-0 lead. The screams get louder with each goal, and the Knights win 5-3.

I honestly can't remember having this much fun at a hockey game. Perhaps this is the ace up the sleeve of the Golden Knights. The organization has made the game of hockey fun for the fans, a great escape from their lives for three hours.

How can you not love this team? As the crowd loves to chant, "Go, Knights, Go!" ❖

SMOKE 30+ CICARS

CIGAR AFICIONADO'S

# E LAS VEGAS

**WEEKEND** 

THE MIRAGE - NOVEMBER 9 - NOVEMBER 11, 2018







### **ULTIMATE WEEKEND FOR CIGAR LOVERS**

The three-day event includes two Big Smoke evenings, and exciting daytime seminars with Cigar Aficionado editors and renowned cigar makers. At the Big Smoke Evenings, collect and smoke over 30 premium cigars, enjoy premium spirits and beer and enjoy a delicious gourmet buffet with your fellow aficionados.



### DAYTIME CIGAR SEMINARS







#### **TOP 3 CIGARS OF 2017**

The tradition of sharing the top cigars of the year as presented by their makers continues with an extraordinary trio:

- Jose Oliva presents the Oliva Serie
   V Belicoso
- Jorge Padrón presents the Padrón Serie 1926 No. 2
- Carlos Fuente Jr. presents the Arturo Fuente Eye of the Shark

#### THE NEW KING: NICARAGUA

Nicaragua has just taken the throne of largest cigar producing country in the world. A discussion about Nicaragua's past, present and future with Rocky Patel, Nestor Andres Plasencia and Alejandro Martinez Cuenca.

#### **CULT CIGARS**

A panel with cigarmakers who make some of the hottest cigars on the market. Panelists include:

- · Dion Giolito Illusione
- · Pete Johnson Tatuaje
- · Kyle Gellis Warped Cigars

Stay tuned for the full schedule including Roll Your Own Cigar, Cuba Panel, Cigar Lover's Breakfast & Cocktail Demo.

#### PLAN YOUR CIGAR FILLED WEEKEND

#### **ALL ACCESS PACKAGE**

Friday, November 9 - Sunday, November 11

Daytime Seminars Saturday & Sunday EARLY-BIRD PRICE \$875\*

2 Big Smoke Evenings (VIP)

5:30 - 9:30 PM Friday & Saturday

#### WEEKEND PACKAGE

Friday, November 9 - Sunday, November 11

Daytime Seminars
Saturday & Sunday

\$675\*

1 Big Smoke Evenings (VIP)

5:30 - 9:30 PM Choose Friday or Saturday Night

#### **BIG SMOKE EVENINGS**

Friday, November 9 & Saturday, November 10

VIP Admission 5:30 - 9:30 PM EARLY-BIRD PRICE \$375\*

EARLY-BIRD PRICE \$325\*

#### **HOTEL SPECIAL!**

There's a block of rooms for Big Smoke attendees, at The Mirage. Go to LasVegasBigSmoke.com and reserve your room today.

General Admission 6:30 - 9:30 PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT LASVEGASBIGSMOKE.COM

### THE NEW

# NICARAGUAN LOVE STORY





# All Bets Are On

Now that sports betting is legal outside of Nevada, some states are starting to cash in

BY MICHAEL KAPLAN
ILLUSTRATION BY MAX-O-MATIC

his fall promises to be a sweet season for football fans in New Jersey and Delaware. Rather than watching games in crowded sports bars or on their sofas, devotees in those states will cut out to racetracks and/or casinos where they'll catch the gridiron action on enormous state-of-the-art screens, with food and drink and comfy seats at the ready. Most critically, though, they'll be able to legally bet on the matchups that unfold in front of them.

That is thanks to the recent Supreme Court decision to shut down the longstanding ban on sports betting outside of licensed operations in Nevada. As per the court, states (rather than the federal government) will be left to decide on whether or not their citizens can bet on sports. Long before the gavel slammed down, though, legislators from New Jersey (who were fighting for the change) and Delaware (where parlay betting became legal in 2009) had already decided. "When the decision came, for the first time in my political career, I was at a loss for words," says former New Jersey State Senator Ray Lesniak, the man who

introduced the bill some six years ago. Proudly, he adds, "We lost eight times before overturning a nationwide ban with formidable opponents such as the NFL and the NBA."

Delaware took its first legal sports bet on June 5, and New Jersey will most assuredly be close behind. But they will definitely not be alone for long. Right now, there are 40 states where casino gambling is legal in some form, and many of them are already looking to get in on the sports-betting action. "Eighteen states have considered legislation [to have sports betting]," says Casey Clark, vice president of strategic communications at the American Gaming Association, which represents the U.S. casino industry. "Whoever is out of the gate quickest will have the best opportunities to profit." That is because they will enjoy windows of time with no competition from neighboring states. Unfortunately for New Jersey and Delaware, the first states poised to be out, they happen to border one another.

In addition to Delaware and New Jersey (which may also be up and running by the time you read this), Pennsylvania, New York, Mississippi and West Virginia all have at least the preliminary approvals to begin offering sports betting. "Mississippi is ready to

go," says Clark, "but they are not set to offer mobile betting. I think opportunities are left on the table by doing it that way. I can see New York passing something this year, but I think it'll take a while to get up and running." West Virginia

lawmakers approved mobile and brick-and-mortar sports betting, though negotiations between the casinos and the state government are ongoing.

Most puzzling of all the contenders is Pennsylvania. Sports betting has been approved but its current terms may not be tenable for casino operators. "The state wants a 36 percent tax rate from the casinos [while other jurisdictions that have gotten far enough to figure out tax policies are in the 10- to 20-percent range]," says Clark. "In order for a licensed operator to offer sports betting under those circumstances, they will have to lower the odds. Nobody will leave illegal sites like Bovada to get a worse deal from a legal sports book." Apps for illegal, offshore sites are already on many people's phones. "If, say, Bovada offers 10 to 1 on a bet and the casino in Pennsylvania offers 6 to 1, you will go with Bovada," Clark adds.

The longer the state of Pennsylvania and its casinos waste time and dicker around over tax rates, the longer New Jersey racetracks and casinos will lure the state's substantial pool of players and generate much needed revenue. "New Jersey should get a lot of credit," says Clark. "They brought the case to the Supreme Court, they pursued it and they should benefit by being on the front end of things."

ccording to the American Gaming Association, sports betting is a \$150 billion industry in this country. Considering that most of the betting is done illegally, it's irrational that for more than 25 years most states outside of Nevada could not license or authorize wagering on sports. Hence, for as long as most of us can remember, the

opportunity to watch a day's worth of games and bet on them lawfully has accounted for much of Vegas's draw, especially during football and basketball seasons.

Why did it require a six-year uphill struggle to convince federal lawmakers that New Jersey (and, as part of the package, every other state in the union) has a right to decide whether or not it should allow people to bet sports in its casinos? "People ask me and I tell them that I really have no clue," says Chris Andrews, sports book director at South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa in Las Vegas and author of the forthcoming *Then One Day*, his book of recollections from the sports-betting world. "For some reason, America has a puritanical streak running through it. You can buy guns at the corner store but you can't bet on a game."

The unreasonably uptight view of sports betting has a long and dirty history. Prior to the 1919 White Sox games-fixing scandal—a group of gamblers, including the notorious Arnold Rothstein, bribed players to blow the World Series that year—betting on sports loomed in a gray area where it was not illegal nor was it exactly legal. Fallout from the ham-handed rigging, which allowed Rothstein alone to win \$250,000 by betting

# Right now, there are 40 states where casino gambling is legal in some form, and many of them are already looking to get in on the sports-betting action.

against a team that would get dubbed the Black Sox, encouraged lawmakers across the nation to make betting on sports illegal.

The goal was to declaw cheaters and to keep sporting events clean. But of course that did not work. Just think of point-shaving scandals over the years and the high-profile gambling of Pete Rose. Says casino bookie Andrews, "If things are hidden under the basket, you open up opportunities for corruption. We want a fair game and the proper odds. Legal bookmakers earn money when the games are played fairly. Plus we serve as watchdogs and file reports when betting activity looks suspicious."

In 1949, the state of Nevada was not unlike today's Atlantic City, where casinos have long been struggling to remain solvent. Three years after the opening of Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo, which stands as Sin City's first modern gambling emporium, tourism was flagging. In a bid to attract interest, state legislators decided to imbue the Nevada casinos with the then-novel offering of legal sports betting. The idea: Game-loving gamblers would flock there to lay down money on their favorite teams.

But there was a problem. In 1951, the federal government, possibly piqued by Nevada green-lighting sports betting, levied a 10 percent tax on revenue from the books. On top of state taxes and various operating expenses, there was a lot to overcome (not unlike with the proposed situation in Pennsylvania). In short order, sports betting became a fringe business for casinos.

At the same time, illegal sports betting, often benefiting organized crime, boomed. Those entities were not subjected to the 10 percent tax, and criminals found the taking of bets to be fabulously profitable. People like to wager on sports and they have shown it through their willingness to deal with criminals.





BROADLEAF OSCURO • STALK-CUT HABANO • CRIOLLO • COROJO
10 years ago, Drew Estate created 'Liga Privada,' the hearty,
Broadleaf bully that changed the cigar world forever... but it
did not come easy.

The hard work began deep in the Connecticut River Valley, where no expense was spared in our hunt for the dense, lush leaf required to make our dream cigar a reality. Highly coveted, this tobacco is historically treated as a reward by growers because of its absolutely stunning taste, aroma and appearance, reinforcing the bond of partnership between farmer and manufacturer.

"Liga" came to life at La Gran Fabrica Drew Estate, our home in Esteli, Nicaragua, where the proud tobacco men & women who work wonders on the factory floor every single day crafted a cigar that is worthy of unmatched celebration.

Today, our passion for pushing boundaries and collaborating with the finest growers in the Connecticut River Valley have produced the next chapters to this legacy. Introducing Liga Privada 10 - Aniversario, a full throttle beast of peppery spice that is swathed in a robust Criollo, and Liga Privada H99 - Connecticut Corojo, which maintains Liga's core tenant of being full bodied, smooth & satisfying. This Liga is all at once bold, balanced and beautiful to behold.

DREW ESTATE THE REBIRTH OF CIGARS
LIGA PRIVADA IS SOLD EXCLUSIVELY AT DREW DIPLOMAT RETAILERS

WWW DREWESTATE COM

#### **SURGEON GENERAL WARNING:**

Tobacco Smoke Increases The Risk Of Lung Cancer And Heart Disease, Even In Nonsmokers.



"It's supply and demand," says Andrews. "If there is demand for a product, be it guns or drugs or gambling, people will be out there to satisfy the demand."

In a bid to curb the illicit betting on sports, Robert F. Kennedy spearheaded the Federal Wire Act of 1961. This made bookmaking outside of Nevada federally illegal in the United States and introduced jail sentences for those convicted of doing it. Of course, the law failed to deter illegal bookmakers from taking wagers or the public from making them.

By 1976, the U.S. government acknowledged as much. A report called "Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling" bluntly stated that "gambling is inevitable." It pretty much conceded what most people already knew: Americans will gamble whether it is legal or not. That same year, the federal government cut its Vegas sports-book tax-take from 10 percent to 2 percent. Not coincidentally, 1976 was the year when major casinos found it juicy to have sports books and that facet of the industry soared. It has yet to come down. Last year, Nevada's books earned a record-setting \$248.7 million. The state, which taxes at a rate of 6.75 percent, collected millions in sports-betting revenue—alongside a federal tax that has since been reduced to one-quarter of one percent.

Surely, the success in Las Vegas has not been hurt by federal government decisions to clamp down on other states pursuing sports-betting opportunities. In 1992, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) prohibited any states from introducing legal sports betting. This is the ruling that New Jersey successfully rallied to overthrow.

Lesniak fought since 2012 to legalize sports betting in the Garden State. The battle turned into a six-year slog, often written off as his Waterloo. "Nobody gave me a snowball's chance in Hell," he crowed soon after PASPA was tossed. "I was criticized for throwing nothing more than a Hail Mary pass and today I completed it."

ow that sports betting in Lesniak's home state is revving up, what will it ultimately look like? As of this writing, Monmouth Racetrack, in Oceanport, New Jersey, is the most ready to start taking bets and the expectation is that it will do so ahead of other Garden State operations. "There already is the \$3 million William Hill Sports Bar on our property," says Dennis Drazin, CEO of Darby Development, which operates the track, explaining that the venerable London-based bookmaker whom the bar is named for will be working with Monmouth on its sports betting enterprise. "They're putting another \$5 million into building out a Vegas-style sports book."

That is pretty much the bottom-line: Sports betting across the country, at tracks and in casinos (plus, who knows, maybe even in bars), will look an awful lot like doing it in Nevada. "The Nevada model works," says Andrews. "Gaming people I've spoken with believe that we have a good system in place."

Things are helped of course by the fact that longstanding Vegas casino companies such as Boyd Gaming, Caesars Entertainment and MGM Resorts International have outposts all over the United States. For independent operations, the Hills of the world appear to be likely collaborators. "Most racetracks will partner

with somebody from the outside," says Drazin. "If somebody comes in with a \$100,000 bet, you need the expertise to know whether to take it or not."

The most obvious winners in all of this will be the casinos and racetracks that get chances to participate in sports betting early. States that are friendly to this pursuit will benefit as well. In New Jersey, for example, taxes on sports books are expected to be 9.75 percent for profits on in-person betting, 13 percent for money bet remotely. As of this writing, the professional sports leagues are also rallying for a piece of the action, known as an "integrity fee." Vegas has thus far succeeded in not paying it. In West Virginia, the government agreed to the fee, but casinos are balking. Other states may have their work cut out for them. Lesniak does not want New Jersey to share its money. "We're not paying them tribute," he says.

When it comes to being lucky winners, it's tough to beat the just-opened Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and Ocean Resort, Atlantic City's new spots that seem well placed to benefit from the windfall of sports betting without having had to weather the devastatingly hard times that closed down five of Atlantic City's gambling properties in recent years. Last fall, Borgata announced plans to build a \$7 million Vegas-worthy sports book; reports



New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak (right) with then-Governor Chris Christie at the U.S. Supreme Court in December. Lesniak fought a six-year slog to legalize sports betting in New Jersey.

have it that the casino is hoping to be taking bets ahead of its Atlantic City competitors. And if the cost of construction sounds high, it really isn't. "Investments [to put up inviting sports books] are not significant," Lesniak says. "You need wraparound TVs and technology. You are not building theme parks."

The big losers are illegal bookies and offshore operators. Though they won't be put out of business, they will certainly take a hit. And Vegas will lose some of its allure as people find it cheaper (and easier) to bet legally while staying closer to home.

Lesniak, the man who made it all happen, seems confident that the United States will soon be a country that embraces legal sports betting. "Everybody except Utah will step up," he predicts. "The NCAA said that they will not do tournaments out of New Jersey [if sports betting gets legalized there]. I say that soon the only state where they will be able to hold their tournaments will be Utah." •

Michael Kaplan, a CIGAR AFICIONADO contributing editor, writes frequently on gambling.



IT'S NICE TOBE

"If you're going to be wanted for something, be wanted for something great."

-Cornelius Bailey, AKA Straight Shooter

That's exactly what Cornelius Bailey set out to do five generations ago. And he's been wanted for growing the finest tobacco ever since.

### CORNELIUS

If you're looking to nab a notoriously great cigar, your just reward awaits.



Cigars Are Not A Safe Alternative To Cigarettes.



MAKE IT COUNT

Cornelius And Anthony.com



# How to Bet on Sports

Don't place your bets on the big (or small) game without our expert's guidance

**BY DANNY SHERIDAN • ILLUSTRATION BY MAX-O-MATIC** 

ince May 14, 2018 when the Supreme Court legalized sports betting in any state that wants it, several dozen states have been scrambling to get in on the action. And the potential amount of that action is considerable: I estimate more than \$200 billion is bet illegally each year on sports in the United States. "The Supreme Court's decision is a victory for millions of Americans who want to bet on sports in a safe and regulated manner," says Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association. "Before this ruling, the government was turning tens of millions of Americans into criminals for the simple act of enjoying [betting] on sports."

So will this new law put illegal U.S. and offshore bookies out of business? No, because bettors accustomed to betting with them don't want their wins or losses disclosed to the IRS or newspapers. But this new law is certain to drive millions of Americans to embrace sports betting. Those who bet already are likely to bet more, and the law change means new bettors will enter the sports betting world.

While it's undeniably a new day for sports betting, it's important to tackle this land of opportunity with solid advice. There are smart sports bets and there are sports bets to avoid, and I have proven strategies to help guide you. Here are my suggestions on how to intelligently bet on college and pro football, Major League Baseball, the NBA and college basketball.

#### **Baseball: Play The Streaks Early**

If a baseball team wins three games in a row, you need to bet on them until they lose. Conversely, if a team loses three in a row, bet against them until they win. I call this the Streak Theory, and it does very well in April and May. I'd recommend not using it after May 31st, as oddsmakers sharpen their lines after the first two months of the Major League Baseball season. Just this year alone, there were several long (and profitable) streaks. The New York Yankees went on a nine-game winning streak in late April, and an eight-game streak in early May. The Mets and Boston each won nine in a row in April, while Tampa Bay and Milwaukee had 8-0 runs. In April and May, Kansas City lost nine in a row, and Cincinnati, Minnesota and Tampa Bay all notched eight-game losing streaks. Streaks can put money in your pocket.

But don't bet baseball every day. It's guaranteed to be very hazardous to one's wealth. The idea of the Streak Theory is to reduce your plays and to take advantage of unexpected early season streaks.

#### The Three-Game Theory Of College Football

Most bettors make the mistake of using comparative scores when handicapping college football games, which lands them on the favorite, but that strategy will give you a loser 70 percent of the time against the spread. I do just the opposite, in what I call my Three-Game Theory. For example, because Alabama beat LSU, and LSU beat Auburn, most bettors incorrectly assumed that favored Alabama would rout underdog Auburn when they squared off in the Iron Bowl last November. In the matchup, Auburn (who I picked) upset Alabama 26-14. By the same token, Miss State beat LSU, LSU beat Ole Miss, so therefore many people picked 14-point home favorite Miss State to rout Ole Miss in their rival season-ending "Egg Bowl" match. But as my good friend Lee Corso says, "not so fast my friend." Ole Miss won outright, 31-28.

So why bet against the favorite when they've beaten a team that has already beaten their upcoming opponent? The favorite team in that situation, knowing they've beaten a team that beat the team they're playing, enters the game understandably very overconfident—which is the exact opposite feeling of Team C, the underdog. And that's why I pick the underdog when this situation arises.

There are plenty of other examples of this theory paying off. Ohio State beat Penn State, Penn State beat Iowa, but Iowa upset Ohio State 55-24. Arizona beat UCLA, UCLA beat Arizona State, but Arizona State upset Arizona 42-30. FSU beat Wake Forest, Wake crushed Boston College but Boston College (a six-point underdog) demolished FSU 35-3. Convinced?

#### Pro Basketball: Ignore The Regular Season

There are just too many games in the regular NBA season (82) for a serious bettor to pay attention to, and that means it's impossible for players to play every night to their mental and physical ability. It's the same with the playoffs. Today's NBA playoffs consist solely of seven-game series, which often produces clunkers against the spread. Don't bet the NBA regular season or individual playoff games. Do bet early first- and second-round NBA playoff series small underdogs, but don't bet on 5:1 or greater series underdogs, who usually lose to superior high-ranked teams.

#### College Football: Distance Makes The Bet Grow Fonder

Put your money on the first six bowl underdogs that play on the opening Saturday (last year, that was December 16). Usually, those teams are the most motivated, and last year, they went 5-1 against the spread. Double up your bet if that 5-7 bowl team is playing far away from home. Nebraska, with its 5-7 record in 2015, upset 8-4 UCLA as a 5 ½-point dog, 37-29. The game was played in Santa Clara, California, about 1,600 miles away from Cornhusker country. San José State, a one-point favorite with a 5-7 record, beat Georgia State 27-16 in the 2015 AutoNation Cure Bowl. They were playing in Orlando, nearly 2,800 miles from home.

#### **College Basketball: Watch The Rematch**

In college basketball, conference foes play each other twice in the regular season. When a team beats the spread in the first meeting, bet against that team in the rematch. If the point spread loser of the first game also loses straight up and the first-game loser is a road underdog, double your bet in the rematch.

#### NFL Regular Season: Look To The Sequel

The same strategy for betting on regular season college basketball applies to division foes in the NFL regular season—bet against the team that beats the spread the first time they meet.

#### **Pass On Parlays**

Never bet on basketball or football parlays. The odds of correctly picking a two-team parlay against the spread is 3:1 against you (with a bookie payout of 2.65:1). In a three-team parlay, those odds increase to 7:1 (payout is 5:1), and a four-team parlay leaves you with 15:1 odds against you (the payout is only 10:1). Need I say more?

#### **Bet Early, Bet Late**

Finally, bet a favorite early in the week. Betting the underdog? Save your bet for as late as possible on game day. Why? The public loves to bet on favorites, so it's best to place favorite bets the minute the line is released. Favorites, more often than not, are bet up during the week, so a team that opens as a 5 ½-point favorite will move a point or two (or more) higher by game time. Conversely, if you like the underdog, wait right until game time or the day of the game, as you'll get the most value on them as the line moves in your favor. That's how you get the best value on a favorite or underdog. ❖

CIGAR AFICIONADO contributor Danny Sheridan appears frequently in major newspapers and on major TV networks.



Dive Into the World of Whisky.

Subscribe Today.

# Whisky Advocate

# SUMMERTIME SIPPING

10 DISTILLERY ADVENTURES
WHISKY IN NATIONAL PARKS
CANADIAN WHISKY
WEEKENDS

PLUS-BEST BARGAIN BOURBONS
SMOOTH IRISH BLENDS
SPEYSIDE SCOTCH

Visit WhiskyAdvocate.com to subscribe or give a gift.



Sorry, Cuba Libre and Mojito, but no cocktail is more closely associated with Cuba than the Daiquiri. Born at the beginning of the 20th century, it's named for a beach in the southeast of the country. However, the drink really came of age on the island's opposite side decades later when Havana was America's playground. (See sidebar, next page). The Daiquiri's seminal roots can be traced to two centuries earlier when grog (diluted rum, lime juice and sugar) was rationed in the British navy. What differentiates the modern version is ice-the form of which is still argued today. Our preference is to shake the drink with large cubes, strain and serve it straight up in a cocktail glass. But on a torrid day an argument can certainly be

made for the sort of icy slurries that island resorts crush in a blender. A good compromise is a highball presentation that stays cold, but isn't as watered down. Where we stray from most recipes is in the type of rum to use-where most call for clear varieties, we say to use dark, aged rum. Follow our lead and a rum/lime synergy occurs that takes the drink to whole new levels.

#### TOM COLLINS

Certainly, many mixed-drink arguments center on their ingredients or proportions thereof (consider the ongoing Martini ration debates), but few disputes rest upon the names themselves. The Tom Collins is the exception. Once variously called the Tom Collins, John Collins and even Jim Collins, this gin concoction even

has recipes based on other spirits (vodka, Irish whiskey, Tequila, applejack and Bourbon, etc.) that take such first names as Ivan, Mike, Pedro, Jack and Colonel. We'll likely never know whence the surname came, but one theory holds that the given name Tom originally referred to the use of Old Tom gin, a sweeter alternative to London dry. The Tom Collins gets its foam from seltzer water (unlike the Gin Fizz, which calls for a shaken egg white). Furthermore, to be a proper Tom Collins it must be served in a glass of the same name, a taller and thinner version of a highball glass. The shape serves to spread the large cubes throughout the height of the glass. While the convenience of using powdered recipes may be alluring, avoid them for proper results.



#### Daiquiri

- 2 ounces aged rum
- 3/4 ounces fresh lime juice
- 3/4 ounces simple syrup
- 1 lime wheel

In an ice-filled shaker, add rum, lime juice and simple syrup (one part cane sugar, one part water heated and stirred). Shake and strain into a coupe or cocktail glass. Garnish with lime wheel.



#### Tom Collins

- 3 ounces gin (traditionally Old Tom)
- 1 tablespoon simple syrup
- 1 lemon wedge
- Seltzer water

Squeeze lemon and mix juice in a Collins glass with gin and simple syrup. Fill with large ice cubes. Top with seltzer. Garnish with lemon wedge.



#### Singapore Sling

- 1 ounce gin
- 1/2 ounce cherry brandy
- 1/4 ounce Bénédictine
- 1/4 ounce Cointreau
- 4 ounces pineapple juice
- 1/2 ounce lime juice
- 1 dash Angostura bitters
- 2 teaspoons grenadine
- 1 pineapple wedge
- 1 Maraschino cherry

Pour all ingredients over ice into a mixing glass. Shake and strain over fresh ice into a Collins or highball glass. Garnish with pineapple and cherry stuck on a toothpick.



#### Tequila Sunrise

- 11/2 to 2 ounces Tequila Orange juice
- 1/2 ounce grenadine syrup (to taste)
- 1 orange slice
- 1 Maraschino cherry

Pack a highball or Collins glass with ice and add Tequila. Add orange juice to within a half inch of the rim, and pour grenadine over the top. Allow the red syrup to sink to the bottom and create the rosy dawn effect. (Resist the temptation to stir.) Garnish with orange and cherry. Serving with a straw will preserve the sunrise.

LEFT TO RIGHT: BHOFACK2 / ISTOCKPHOTO; BHOFACK2 / ISTOCKPHOTO; JILL CHEN / STOCKSY; CHARLIE RICHARDS / STOCKFOOD

#### SINGAPORE SLING

The first known written reference to a cocktail dates to 1806, and describes it as a "bittered sling." But what's a sling? The Oxford English dictionary says it's "a sweetened drink of spirits, especially gin, and water." Webster's adds lemon juice. Neither begins to define the complexity of what is today served at the Raffles Hotel as the Singapore Sling. The basic drink—a sling with a red hue-began to evolve on the island nation of Singapore off of the Malay Peninsula in the late 19th century. It was a way for ladies to imbibe alcohol in disguise. (Colored with grenadine, the cocktail could be passed off as a fruit drink.) Raffles claims to have invented the drink in 1915, and it went international soon after, but without much uniformity. Most recipes include citrus juice and cherry brandy. The hotel's version has continued to evolve, adding pineapple juice, more liquors and fruit garnishes. That's the recipe we offer here. Oddly, one component from the original definition has been dispensed with: water.

#### **BOURBON SMASH**

There are flips and slings, punches and fixes, coolers and cobblers and snappers, but the most intriguing verb-turned-noun to describe a mixed drink has to be "smash." The name refers to the muddling of leaves in the bottom of the mixing glass, and in 1862, Jerry Thomas, author of the first American drinks book, termed the Smash "a Julep on a small plan." Both Smashes and Juleps typically contain muddled mint, but Smashes are made with all manner of fruit. While there's also an encyclopedic range of Julep recipes, let's face it-most people drink the mint kind, which is made with crushed ice, served on Derby Day and contains no fruit at all. The jumping off point for tricking out a Smash came with adding lemons to the mint, and intrepid smashers have experimented with every kind of fruit (lime makes a drink evocative of the Mojito, while orange is sweeter) and herb leaf (basil, sage and tarragon). Some even add jam. We give the basic lemon recipe, but feel free to substitute.

#### TEQUILA SUNRISE

Say the name Tequila Sunrise and prepare to hear anyone within earshot break into an out-of-tune version of the Eagles song



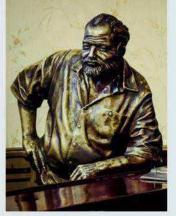
## The Cradle of the Daiquiri

The bar is ancient, a massive slab manned by a cadre of bartenders, each wearing a royal red apron against a bright white shirt. At the far left corner sits a statue of Papa Hemingway, one elbow on the rail, enshrined forever at a prime seat at Cuba's most famous watering hole.

This is El Floridita, and drinks have been poured here since 1817 when it was known as La Piña de Plata, or The Silver Pineapple. As legend goes, a bartender here made so many

Daiquiris that the drink became synonymous with the bar, which carries the motto "la cuna del Daiquiri," or the cradle of the Daiquiri. Hemingway and so many others drank here. You should too.

It's mobbed by tourists, but when you visit Havana you must stop here for at least one icy Daiquiri. The whir of the blenders is nearly nonstop as the bartenders drizzle Havana Club into pitchers with ice, lime juice and simple syrup—welcome, sweet comfort against the heat and humidity so prevalent on this island. The standard pour is made with a young, clear version of Cuban rum, but you can—and should—ask for one made with rum añejo, older, dark rum, to make the drink fuller in flavor. Make your way to the bar (I prefer the right side, farther



away from the music), order your drink and sip it slowly as you take in the scene. You can eat here as well, but there are better dining spots in Havana, so nibble on the offered plate of fried plantain chips, finish your drink then make your way back onto the streets of Old Havana and light your cigar, fortified for the rest of your evening. —David Savona

of the same name. But it is another rock band—the Rolling Stones—that can take the credit for first spreading the news of this tasty Tequila drink with the gorgeous presentation. Before it was the simple mix of Tequila, orange juice and grenadine, the Sunrise had debuted in Arizona in the 1930s with crème de cassis, lime juice and soda water. In the early '70s a bar called the Trident in the San Francisco Bay area changed the recipe, which not only made it easier to construct, but more obvious as

to how it got its name. Sunrise refers to the drink's appearance, not the time of day you should drink one. (If you sip one at dawn, we won't judge.) As it happens, the Stones soon after held the kickoff party for their 1972 tour in the same bar. Mick Jagger ordered a Margarita, but was convinced to try this newfangled Tequila Sunrise. He made converts of the whole band and because it was so easy to make they proselytized the drink across the nation that summer. ❖



Welcome to the renowned portfolio of Rocky Patel's finest handmade brands crafted at his boutique cigar factory called TaviCusa situated in the heart of Esteli, Nicaragua. Welcome to excellence.





#### WWW.ROCKYPATEL.COM





Consecutive Years in Cigar Aficionado's top 25

Timeless Prestige Churchill (Formerly Timeless Dominican)

92 Timeless Supreme 652T (Formerly Timeless Nicaragua)

93 Timeless Prestige No.2 (Formerly Timeless Dominican)

93

Timeless Prestige Divinos (Formerly Timeless Dominican)

"A handsomely box-pressed torpedo offering a rich range of molasses, oak and semisweet chocolate." Cigar Aficionado - 652T

"A sign of newfound energy and commitment Nat Sherman has made to its cigar brand." Cigar Aficionado - No.2

#### THE TIMELESS COLLECTION. ACCOLADES TO BE CONTINUED...

EXCLUSIVELY FOR Nat Sherman Intl.



©2018 NAT SHERMAN INTERNATIONAL, LLC NSI242



## churchills\_

It's rare indeed to find such an extraordinary intermingling of flavors as we did in the H. Upmann Sir Winston, which scored 94 points. Being a Churchill in the Cuban portfolio puts the Sir Winston on the endangered vitola list, but its refined combinations of chocolate and marzipan give this tobacco true Viennese opulance—and a near guarantee that it will age into a sublime classic. The Alec Bradley Black Market Estelí is new, launched in late 2017 as a Nicaraguan companion to the original Black Market, which is Honduran. Ominous name aside, it scored 92 points and is a fine (and perfectly legal) example of how well Nicaraguan and Honduran tobaccos can harmonize.



#### CUBA

#### H. UPMANN SIR WINSTON

RING GAUGE: 47 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA **BOX DATEL JUNE 2017** 

A sweet and nutty smoke exhibiting the luxurious qualities of fine chocolate, marzipan and gingersnaps, all brought together by a slightly floral, graham cracker finish. Complex and delicious.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £32.91 STRENGTH: Medium



#### NICARAGUA

#### ALEC BRADLEY BLACK MARKET ESTELÍ **CHURCHILL**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA, HONDURAS WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

This cigar is draped in a dark, alluring wrapper. Each puff unfolds sweet notes of chocolate around a hearty core of coffee bean. The finish hints of rum cake and minerals. U.S.: \$8.75 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



#### **NICARAGUA**

#### MICALLEF RESERVA LIMITADA PRIVADA

91

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: HONDURAS, DOM. REP., PERU BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: MEXICO

Draped in a toothy cover leaf, this Churchill has a good draw and even burn. Its nutty smoke is balanced by sweeter touches of honey, cherry and a hint of caramel. U.S.: \$42.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



#### **HONDURAS**

#### **ROCKY PATEL VINTAGE 1990 CHURCHILL**

91

RING GAUGE: 48 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: NICARAGUA, DOM. REP. BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: HONDURAS This Churchill gives off a big aroma of baking spices as it burns. Its woody core becomes more interesting and detailed with licorice notes, chocolate and hints of cinnamon.

U.S.: \$10.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



#### **NICARAGUA**

#### SAN LOTANO REQUIEM CONNECTICUT **CHURCHILL**

91

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: NICARAGUA, HONDURAS BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

RING GAUGE: 48 LENGTH: 6 3/4"

Though light in appearance, this Churchill delivers a rich, creamy smoke full of brown sugar and vanilla notes that segue into a toasty finish.

U.S.: \$7.80 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



#### **NICARAGUA**

FILLER: NICARAGUA

BINDER: NICARAGUA

WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

#### **ILLUSIONE CRUZADO** CHURCHILL

A well-made Churchill with harmonious notes of nutmeg, sweet herbs and ground black pepper that usher in a leathery finish.

U.S.: \$11.35 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: MEXICO

#### LA AROMA DE CUBA MI AMOR

**CHURCHILL** 

A box-pressed maduro with an open, substantial draw. Its sweet chocolate and vanilla notes are framed by earth, wood and toast.

U.S.: \$8.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: DOM. REP.
BINDER: DOM. REP.
WRAPPER: MEXICO

#### LA FLOR DOMINICANA 1994 MAMBO

Though the draw of this veiny cigar is firm, the smoke is dense and chewy with notes of cedar, salt and vanilla that lead to a leathery finish.

U.S.: \$8.80 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: NICARAGUA, DOM. REP.
BINDER: ECUADOR
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

**UNDERCROWN SHADE** CORONA DOBLE

Packed solid with tobacco, this weighty Churchill draws beautifully, showing easygoing notes of dried fig, walnut and vanilla before a light, woody finish.

U.S.: \$9.98 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild

89



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

#### PADRÓN DÁMASO NO. 17

U.S.: \$17.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild

Wrapped in a golden-brown cover leaf, this large cigar draws and burns evenly offering a light, creamy smoke with a woody finish.

88



#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: DOM. REP., MEXICO
BINDER: MEXICO
WRAPPER: CAMEROON

#### **PARTAGAS** FABULOSO

A rough, spotty cigar that burns and draws quite evenly. Muted tobacco notes in the beginning blossom a bit to show nuttiness, wood and fleeting intonations of chocolate.

U.S.: \$9.69 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

88



#### **BAHAMAS**

RING GAUGE: 48 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS BINDER: ECUADOR

BINDER: ECUADOR WRAPPER: COSTA RICA

#### **GRAYCLIFF CHATEAU GRAND CRU**

PRESIDENT
A salty, nutty Churchill with a firm draw and core of

wood, but some sour cardboard notes offset the score.

U.S.: \$22.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

86



#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: ECUADOR

#### PDR 1878 CAPA OSCURA CHURCHILL

Tightly rolled with notes of oak, caraway seed and earth that take on a heavy mineral quality, but do not harmonize on the finish.

U.S.: \$7.32 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

86



#### **HONDURAS**

RING GAUGE: 58 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: HONDURAS, NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

#### **SAINT LUIS REY** CHURCHILL

Reddish and oily with a lush draw but uneven burn. Its tangy, earthiness carries a hint of citrus and vanilla but the finish tastes heavily charred.

U.S.: \$5.88 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

# corona gordas\_

While the combination of Mexican wrapper and strong Nicaraguan tobacco might be getting a little commonplace in today's premium cigar market, The Wise Man Maduro makes it interesting, as the Robusto scored 93 points and kept us wide awake with each puff. It's the creation of Nick Melillo and an offshoot of his original El Güegüense brand, which translates to "the wise man." This meaty-tasting maduro version is not only bold and delicious, it's much easier to pronounce. Also scoring 93 points was the Vegas Cubanas Generosos, which is made by My Father Cigars in Nicaragua. Originally produced in Miami, the cigar's popularity declined as the Garcia family grew its cigar manufacturing operations and expanded to Nicaragua. Vegas Cubanas practically disappeared from the market (though the Garcias say it was made in very small quantities for a few retailers). Last year, they brought the cigar back into regular production, only this time it's made with tobacco grown on their farms in Estelí and Jalapa. Like most of the cigars from the Garcias, Vegas Cubanas is rolled at My Father Cigars in Nicaragua.



#### **NICARAGUA**

# RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: MEXICO

#### THE WISE MAN MADURO ROBUSTO

A rich, cocoa-like earthiness sets the tone for this sweet-and-salty cigar, which offers notes of graham cracker and vanilla fortified by a meaty, beef stock finish.

U.S.: \$10.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



#### NICARAGUA

#### RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

#### **VEGAS CUBANAS** GENEROSOS

Sweet, rich notes of chocolate-covered raisins lead to a salty, nutty finish. A balanced, tasty smoke with a dark wrapper and flat head.

U.S.: \$7.18 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF

#### **AVO MADURO 30 YEARS** NO. 2

Enrobed in a dark, toothy wrapper, this cigar forms a firm white ash as it burns. Its chewy smoke shows notes of chocolate, zingy cedar and a slight hint of raisins.

U.S.: \$10.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium



91

93

93



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: ECUADOR
WRAPPER: INDONESIA

#### **GILBERTO OLIVA RESERVA** 6X50

Floral intonations along with touches of wood and malted chocolate set the tone for this well-made cigar. The finish is long and satisfying, hinting of mint.

U.S.: \$6.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

#### CASA MAGNA JALAPA CLARO TORO BOX PRESS

Sharply pressed with a colorado wrapper, this toro draws evenly, showing a woody palate of cedar and mesquite, wheaty hints of cereal and the boozy aftertaste of cocktail bitters.

U.S.: \$7.20 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild-Medium



#### **CUBA**

RING GAUGE: 46 LENGTH: 5 5/8" FILLER: CUBA

**BOX DATE: AUGUST 2015** 

BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA First puffs of this cigar are notably salty, though it takes on some citrus notes and a bit of cocoa before its floral finish. The draw is quite firm.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £30.20 STRENGTH: Medium

**COHIBA SIGLO IV** 

89



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5 1/2"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF
WRAPPER: MEXICO

#### ROCKY PATEL VINTAGE 2006 SAN ANDREAS ROBUSTO

This dark, oily cigar burns a bit unevenly, but imparts big notes of oak, marshmallow and coffee with hints of vanilla and sweet wood on the finish.

U.S.: \$9.55 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

#### **ARCHETYPE INITIATION TORO**

Though the wrapper of this cigar is rough in texture, it imparts a toasty, creamy smoke accentuated by notes of fruit, tea and cedar. The finish is a bit dry.

U.S.: \$12.49 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



#### **HONDURAS**

RING GAUGE: 46 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: HONDURAS
BINDER: HONDURAS
WRAPPER: HONDURAS

#### **EIROA THE FIRST 20 YEARS** 46 X 6

Neatly pressed with two sharp corners and two softer edges, this cigar is sweet and cedary up front with some lingering tanginess and spice. A straightforward smoke. U.S.: \$12.66 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



#### **CUBA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6 1/2" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA

BOX DATE: NOVEMBER 2017

#### H. UPMANN MAGNUM 50

A predominantly woody smoke with zesty hints of citrus and smoky peatiness of Scotch. Some inconsistency in the draw was noted.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £25.84 STRENGTH: Medium

88



#### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 6" FILLER: NICARAGUA, HONDURAS BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

#### **MACANUDO INSPIRADO RED** TORO

This oily, veiny cigar burns evenly, but notes of coffee, fruit and wood are faint, as are muted hints of chocolate. The qualities could be more pronounced.

U.S.: \$6.99 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

87



#### **HONDURAS**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 6" FILLER: NICARAGUA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

#### S.T.K. BLACK DAHLIA BY GEORGE RICO GRAN ROBUSTO

Well crafted with a flat head and beautiful wrapper. The smoke is floral and woody but becomes a bit soapy-tasting on the finish.

U.S.: \$10.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

86



#### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 58 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: DOM. REP.
BINDER: DOM. REP.
WRAPPER: BRAZIL

#### PATORO SERIE P USA EDITION TORO

A fat cigar with serious combustion issues. The draw is faint and one side refuses to burn. Slight hints of citrus and toffee are overpowered by rough notes of char and mustiness.

U.S.: \$11.36 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

# GREAT PLACES



### SHELLY'S BACK ROOM | WASHINGTON, D.C.

A distinguished assortment of fine cigars and whiskeys, state-of-the-art continuous fresh air system, eight HD TV's, complimentary Wi-Fi, seasonal outdoor café, and lunch, dinner and late-night menus make Shelly's a D.C. legend! Located two blocks from the White House.

shellysbackroom.com



### ASHTON CIGAR BAR | PHILADELPHIA. PA

Ashton Cigar Bar is the ultimate oasis for cigar and whiskey lovers. An extensive menu of premium aged cigars, ultrarare whiskeys and craft cocktails awaits your indulgence in a world-class setting.

ashtoncigarbar.com



### DAVIDOFF OF GENEVA | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Discover rare and exclusive cigars in our bespoke vault. Personalize cigar boxes and accessories, or relax in our luxurious lounges. Davidoff of Geneva since 1911 is your passport to a cigar world above the ordinary. This is quality time, elevated.

Atlanta • Houston • New York • Las Vegas • Tampa

davidoffgeneva.com



### BURN BY ROCKY PATEL | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

BURN by Rocky Patel is an evolution in upscale lounges designed for those who enjoy fine cigars, premium spirits and contemporary live music.

Naples • Pittsburgh • Oklahoma City • Atlanta • Indianapolis

burnbyrockypatel.com

VISIT GREATPLACESTOLIGHTUP.CIGARAFICIONADO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

# TO LIGHT UP



## BLEND BAR | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Blend Bar with Davidoff Cigars has four locations: Indianapolis, Nashville, Pittsburgh and Houston. Offering over 100 bourbons and single malts in a luxury environment. Open daily starting at noon.

### blendbarcigar.com



# CASA DE MONTECRISTO BY JR CIGAR | PARAMUS. NJ

Casa de Montecristo inherits the tradition and experience of the most recognized and appreciated cigar brand in the world: Montecristo. We are a place to enjoy a wide selection of premium cigars, the coolest accessories and much more. Come enjoy a cigar at Casa!

casademontecristo.com



## CORONA CIGAR | ORLANDO, FL

Millions of cigars, hundreds of whiskeys and one-of-a-kind experiences! Enjoy three Orlando locations offering exclusive cigars, authentic Florida Sun Grown tobacco and private barrel whiskeys.

### coronacigar.com



## SOHO CIGAR BAR | MANHATTAN. NY

Eat. Drink. Smoke... Indoors! Relax and enjoy flights and pairings from our curated selection of 150 world-class whiskeys and premium cigars. Then, indulge yourself with any of our artisanal crafted appetizers. Your table awaits.

sohocigarbar.com

TO ADVERTISE CONTACT: BARRY ABRAMS 212-684-4896 • BABRAMS@MSHANKEN.COM

# double coronas\_

Double coronas are another example of a classic cigar size that aren't as popular as they once were, but if you find the right retailer—and have an hour and a half to smoke the entire cigar—this old standard has a lot to offer. Three scored an outstanding 92 points, and each comes from a different country. The Ashton Aged Maduro No. 60 is made in the Dominican Republic at the Fuente factory from a traditional blend of Dominican tobacco and Connecticut broadleaf wrapper. Though dark and imposing, the cigar is sweet and complex. The Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series "A" is a double corona by our standards. No matter the name, it's a fantastic smoke, full of the signature chocolate characteristic to the vaunted brand. They're made in Nicaragua and stand as a testament to the company's ability to produce a 1964 Anniversary Series cigar of any size and still maintain all its defining traits. There aren't many sizes left in the Cuban Ramon Allones brand, but the Gigante is one of them. It's one of the few double coronas that Habanos S.A. produces. It builds in both complexity and intensity.



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF

### **ASHTON AGED MADURO NO. 60**

An inky, dark Churchill whose every puff is sweet and dense with cocoa powder, molasses, nougat and a caramel finish.

U.S.: \$12.40 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

92



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 8 1/4" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

### PADRÓN 1964 ANNIVERSARY SERIES "A"

A long cigar with a very flat head. Initial puffs are light and herbal, but this cigar intensifies to show sweet, rich notes of chocolate and vanilla, maraschino cherry, and a toasty, nutty finish redolent of hazelnuts.

U.S.: \$34.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



### **CUBA**

RING GAUGE: 49 LENGTH: 7 5/8"
FILLER: CUBA
BINDER: CUBA
WRAPPER: CUBA
BOX DATE: APRIL 2015

### **RAMON ALLONES** GIGANTES

Tall and dark with a three-seam cap and flat head. Nutty and earthy from the first puff, the cigar becomes progressively stronger and more complex with notes of caramel, almonds and a leathery finish.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £30.02 STRENGTH: Medium

92



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 56 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **E.P. CARRILLO ORIGINAL REBEL** MAVERICK 56

A huge, beefy cigar with some up-front, tangy acidity that dissipates for warmer notes of dark chocolate, wood and dried fruit.

U.S.: \$12.60 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



### CUBA

RING GAUGE: 49 LENGTH: 7 5/8"
FILLER: CUBA
BINDER: CUBA
WRAPPER: CUBA
BOX DATE: JUNE 2016

### HOYO DE MONTERREY DOUBLE CORONA

This large double corona is made with a three-seam cap and tawny wrapper. The draw is firm but still imparts a nutty, floral smoke that develops notes of toffee and baking spices.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £30.46 STRENGTH: Medium



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7 1/2"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### LA GLORIA CUBANA COLECCIÓN RESERVA PRESIDENTE

Covered in a streaky, dark wrapper, this large cigar has a spicy, leathery start opening up to show notes of walnut and toast. The finish is light and herbal.

U.S.: \$8.99 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium





### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 8"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF

### **OLIVA SERIE G MADURO** PRESIDENTE

Sharply box pressed with a maduro wrapper. The draw is open and full, delivering earthy notes, caramel sweetness and a charry, spicy finish.

U.S.: \$7.32 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

89



### **HONDURAS**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF

### **PUNCH GRAN PURO NICARAGUA** 7 1/2 X 54

This cigar is a slow starter, but becomes fruity and nutty with tangy hints of cloves and a creamy finish. The draw and burn are even and consistent.

U.S.: \$7.19 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 7 1/2"
FILLER: DOM. REP.
BINDER: MEXICO
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **ROMEO Y JULIETA VINTAGE** ∨

The medium claro wrapper of this large cigar hints at its medium-bodied notes of citrus, wood and cocoa powder. The finish carries the yeasty hint of bread.

U.S.: \$10.01 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP.

WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. SHADE

### **DIAMOND CROWN** ROBUSTO NO. 2

A large Churchill in a light Connecticut wrapper. It's floral and nutty with some tangy wood and grassy notes on the finish.

U.S.: \$18.45 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild

88



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 7 5/8" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: ECUADOR

## **ARTURO FUENTE** CHATEAU FUENTE ROYAL SALUTE SUN GROWN

Dark and oily, this double corona smokes evenly, offering the sweet-and-sour qualities of cloves, tamarind and citrus, but the finish leaves a charry aftertaste.

U.S.: \$8.56 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

0)



### U.S.A.

RING GAUGE: 49 LENGTH: 7 5/8" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

### **TATUAJE CABINET TAINOS**

Big, dark and oily, this cigar shows a combination of sweetness and charry oak on the palate, though the finish leaves the slightly bitter aftertaste of cardboard.

U.S.: \$13.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

86



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **DAVIDOFF 702 SERIES**ANIVERSARIO DOUBLE R

A dark, gleaming double corona whose notes of black pepper, earth and mustard seed clash with its damp, musty undertones.

U.S.: \$36.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

# figurados\_

Two small brands from Cuba turned in some big scores. When most people think of Cuban pirámides, the Montecristo No. 2 often comes to mind—but Cuba has more pirámides then just the Monte, and they are vibrant, dynamic representations of Cuban tobacco, even if these cigars aren't quite as popular. Take for example the Diplomaticos No. 2, which scored 92 points. It's almost symphonic in its delivery of flavor, starting light, then building to a crescendo of richness and ending on a sweet note. Or consider the Cuban Vegas Robaina Unico (91 points), named for the legendary farm owned by the Robaina family and still operating today. The brand doesn't necessarily contain tobacco specifically from that farm, but the Unico is a bracing smoke, establishing bold notes up front and then an assortment of secondary flavors. ■ Four figurados scored 90 points: The 601 Blue Label Maduro Torpedo from Nicaragua; the Fonseca Cubano Limitado Belicoso, made in the Dominican Republic; the Nicaraguan La Gran Llave Torpedo; and the Serino Wayfarer 109, both from Nicaragua.



### CUBA

### **DIPLOMATICOS** NO. 2

92

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6 1/8" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6 1/8"

WRAPPER: CUBA **BOX DATE: SEPTEMBER 2017** 

First puffs of this pirámide are floral and woody, but the cigar becomes rich and sweet with notes of chocolatecovered almonds and honey.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £21.58 STRENGTH: Medium-Full

91



### CUBA

FILLER: CUBA

BINDER: CUBA

WRAPPER: CUBA

**BOX DATE: MARCH 2017** 

### **VEGAS ROBAINA** UNICO

Salty, woody notes drive this torpedo, which also delivers a spicy smoke full of vanilla, cardamom, black pepper and a leathery finish.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £24.86 STRENGTH: Medium



### **NICARAGUA**

FILLER: NICARAGUA

BINDER: NICARAGUA

### **601 BLUE LABEL MADURO TORPEDO**

Near-black and box-pressed, this torpedo is earthy and toasty in character with notes of coffee and a charred oak finish

U.S.: \$8.95 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6 1/8"

### FONSECA CUBANO LIMITADO BELICOSO

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6 1/4" Rich and earthy with a pipe-tobacco sweetness, FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA oaky vanilla notes and a hint of caraway seed on BINDER: DOM. REP. the cedary finish.

U.S.: \$8.75 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

90



### **NICARAGUA**

WRAPPER: HONDURAS

### LA GRAN LLAVE TORPEDO

RING GAUGE: 56 LENGTH: 6 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: MEXICO Nearly perfect in appearance, this belicoso is evenly pressed with a clean wrapper and packed with tobacco. The draw is firm, but still offers floral nutty notes, earth and a peppery finish.

U.S.: \$10.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 61/4" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **SERINO WAYFARER** THE 109

Rolled in a Conde 109 shape, this long belicoso produces an exceptionally white ash. It's a mostly woody smoke with secondary notes of gingerbread and nutmeg.

U.S.: \$8.95 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

90



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 58 LENGTH: 5 7/8" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: ECUADOR WRAPPER: MEXICO

### E.P. CARRILLO LA HISTORIA

REGALIAS D'CELIA

Earthy and smoky like a heavily peated Scotch, this flatly pressed belicoso delivers some sweet floral notes as well.

U.S.: \$11.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA,
BRAZIL, PERU
BINDER: DOM. REP.
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### LA AURORA PREFERIDOS 1903 EDICION EMERALD PERFECTO

An almost cartoonish perfecto with big notes of strong, dark-roasted coffee, earth and leather, though the finish is a bit muted and closed.

U.S.: \$21.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Full

89



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: HONDURAS
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **HERRERA ESTELI PIRAMIDE FINO**

An attractive belicoso that draws and burns evenly. It's a predominantly woody smoke complemented by notes of peach tea and a floral finish.

U.S.: \$10.80 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

88



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 5 1/2" FILLER: COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### NAT SHERMAN PANAMERICANA BELICOSO FINO

Notably tangy throughout with hints of fruit, spice and malt. It's a delightfully oily belicoso with a pointy tip.

U.S.: \$11.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Full

88



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6" FILLER: NICARAGUA, DOM. REP. BINDER: MEXICO WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **VILLIGER 1888 TORPEDO**

Oils are seeping through the wrapper of this torpedo. The draw is weak, imparting a thin smoke that's cedary and herbal with a straw-and-hay finish.

U.S.: \$7.56 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

88



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 61/4" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### NAT CICCO ANIVERSARIO 1965 LIGA NO. 4 TORPEDO

Sharply pressed with an uncut foot, this belicoso is tangy and tart with an underlying woodiness, a hint of ginger and charcoal finish.

U.S.: \$6.25 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 6"
FILLER: DOM. REP.
BINDER: DOM. REP.
WRAPPER: DOM. REP.

### **AGING ROOM QUATTRO F59 MAESTRO**

A box-pressed belicoso with an herbal, woody smoke that pairs hints of earth and maple, though the finish is a bit soapy.

U.S.: \$10.54 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

# panetelas\_

Panetelas and lanceros are often lauded for their sleek elegance, but make no mistake—these slim cigars can be as strong and impactful as they are refined. If you look at the two top-scoring sizes in this category, you'll see two key themes: concentration and intensity. Because of the lancero's thin ring gauge, the smoke from the draw is quite concentrated, hitting the palate squarely in the middle. This can result in an intense smoking experience. It certainly did for the My Father No. 4 Lancero, which scored 91 points. The cigar is made in Nicaragua at the Garcia family's My Father Cigars Factory. Another Nicaraguan cigar, the Oliva Serie V Lancero, also scored 91 points. Both cigars are studies in concentrated complexity that maintain the grace you'd expect from a long, thin smoke.



### NICARAGUA

WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### MY FATHER NO. 4 LANCERO

RING GAUGE: 38 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA A gleaming lancero with a pigtail cap and perfect draw. Concentrated notes of leather, fruit and spice intensify for a bold, resonant finish.

U.S.: \$10.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

91



### NICARAGUA

### **OLIVA SERIE V** LANCERO

91

RING GAUGE: 38 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

A dark lancero that's as delicious as it looks. Each puff calls to mind cloves, maple, brown sugar and ripe fruits. The smoke intensifies to show heavier notes of coffee bean and a spicy finish.

U.S.: \$7.84 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### LA AURORA 107 LANCERO

C

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 6 7/8" FILLER: NICARAGUA. DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: ECUADOR

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 7"

FILLER: HONDURAS, NICARAGUA

WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. HABANO

The tobacco in this dark, streaky lance captures the essence of dark-roasted coffee beans buttressed by a rich earthiness, a touch of chocolate and a leathery finish.

U.S.: \$7.76 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **NICARAGUA**

BINDER: BRAZII

### LIGA PRIVADA ÚNICO SERIE L-40

Cloaked in a dark, toothy wrapper this lancero gives dense, chewy notes of gingerbread, earth and nuts before a woody, mesquite finish.

U.S.: \$16.53 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **NICARAGUA**

### **JOYA DE NICARAGUA ANTAÑO 1970 LANCERO**

RING GAUGE: 38 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

Dried fruit on the cold draw of this dark lancero recurs once the cigar is lit, along with notes of cocoa powder and candy-coated Jordan almonds.

U.S.: \$8.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 7"
FILLER: DOM. REP.
BINDER: DOM. REP.
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### LA BARBA PURPLE 40 X 7

Oily and alluring with a reddish tinge to the wrapper and slight resistance on the draw. It's earthy, mineral qualities are matched with fruit notes and a hint of maple sweetness.

U.S.: \$8.90 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 36 LENGTH: 7" FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **ROMEO Y JULIETA RESERVA REAL** PORTO REAL

First impressions of this slim cigar are dry and herbal, but it picks up some notes of pepper and cocoa powder. The draw is inconsistent.

U.S.: \$7.92 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Mild-Medium

88



### U.S.A

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 7 1/2"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

### **CASA FERNANDEZ ANIVERSARIO**

**SERIE 2015 VOLEUR** 

A long, slim, box-pressed lancero with an open draw. Though bland at first, it becomes a tangy smoke with a mineral-like finish.

U.S.: \$12.70 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: HONDURAS

### **KRISTOFF CRIOLLO** LANCERO

A rustic-looking lancero with an uncut foot and pigtail cap. Herbal and woody at first, it becomes stronger with earth and a heavy mineral finish.

U.S.: \$8.20 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### U.S.A.

RING GAUGE: 38 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA BINDER: ECUADOR WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### LA PALINA ILLUMINATION LANCERO

The wrapper of this lancero has a healthy, rich color. Its creamy notes of vanilla and oak contrast with zesty hints of lemon and licorice.

U.S.: \$11.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### **CUBA**

RING GAUGE: 40 LENGTH: 7 1/2" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA BOX DATE: MARCH 2015

### **TRINIDAD** FUNDADORES

A slim smoke with a veiny wrapper and tight pigtail cap. It draws well, though the burn is a bit uneven. Initial flintiness dissipates to show notes of nutmeg, ground pepper and a saccharine sweetness.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £24.00 STRENGTH: Medium

87



### NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE: 38 LENGTH: 7 1/2"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### L'ATELIER SELECTION SPÉCIALE

LAT 38 SPECIAL

A near-black lancero whose notes of earth, citrus and minerals clash a bit with hints of toast and the boozytasting finish.

U.S.: \$9.75 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

# robustos\_

The Cuban Juan Lopez Selección No. 2 may seem like a supporting cast member when it comes to Habanos S.A.'s overall production of Cuban brands, but in this tasting, it turned in a leading performance scoring 92 points. It hit all the sweet and savory notes in both sporting and artful ways. Take note of its core cedary character. These cigars are boxed in cedar cabinets, which, no doubt impart some woodiness to the smoke. Two cigars scored 91 points, the Nicaraguan My Father La Opulencia Robusto and the Cuban Romeo y Julieta Wide Churchill. Both reflect modern tastes—the My Father with its popular Mexican-Nicaraguan blend and the Romeo with its sheer girth.



### **CUBA**

### **JUAN LOPEZ SELECCIÓN NO. 2**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 4 7/8" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA **BOX DATE: NOVEMBER 2017** 

Rich notes of leather, nuts and chocolate play beautifully off of this cigar's spicy, cedary core for a well-balanced and delicious smoke. U.S.: N/A U.K.: £19.13 STRENGTH: Medium-Full

92



### NICARAGUA

### MY FATHER LA OPULENCIA ROBUSTO

91

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 5 1/4" FILLER: NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: MEXICO A dark-brown robusto with rounded shoulders and even combustion. Its predominant chocolate character is underscored by notes of coffee bean and nuts. U.S.: \$10.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Full



### CUBA

### **ROMEO Y JULIETA** WIDE CHURCHILL

91

RING GAUGE: 55 LENGTH: 5 1/8" FILLER: CUBA BINDER: CUBA WRAPPER: CUBA **BOX DATE: JULY 2017** 

A fat robusto topped with an uneven three-seam cap. There's an underlying toastiness to this smoke, which is well layered with notes of spice, fruit and leather. U.S.: N/A U.K.: £25.38 STRENGTH: Medium



### **HONDURAS**

### **ALEC BRADLEY THE LINEAGE ROBUSTO**

90

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 5 1/4" FILLER: HONDURAS, NICARAGUA BINDER: NICARAGUA WRAPPER: HONDURAS Topped with a pigtail cap, this robusto smokes evenly with a clean burn and full draw. It's a toasty, creamy smoke with some salty elements, a bit of earth and a toffee sweetness.

U.S.: \$7.55 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### LA FLOR DOMINICANA COLORADO OSCURO NO. 4

90

RING GAUGE: 54 LENGTH: 5 1/4" FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA BINDER: DOM. REP. WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 4 7/8"

**BOX DATE: FEBRUARY 2017** 

Oils are seeping through the wrapper of this dark cigar, which shows a rich interplay of chocolate, cinnamon and bread dough along with some hints of licorice. U.S.: \$8.40 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **CUBA**

FILLER: CUBA

BINDER: CUBA

WRAPPER: CUBA

### **RAMON ALLONES SPECIALLY SELECTED**

There's a nutty, oaky core to this lightly hued robusto. Notes of spicy clove and earth emerge, followed by an earthy finish.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £18.59 STRENGTH: Medium-Full



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5 1/4" FILLER: DOM. REP., NICARAGUA, U.S.A./PENN. BROADLEAF BINDER: ECUADOR

BINDER: ECUADOR
WRAPPER: MEXICO

### **MATILDE OSCURA** ROBUSTO

An oily maduro with a round head and open draw. It's a nutty, cedary smoke with an underlying earthiness and an herbal finish.

U.S.: \$8.50 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **HONDURAS**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: HONDURAS
WRAPPER: HONDURAS

### PADILLA MIAMI 8&11 ROBUSTO

Neatly rolled and solid with an oily wrapper. This is a zesty robusto full of citrus notes, ground cloves and a toasty finish.

U.S.: \$12.00 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **NICARAGUA**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

### PADRÓN 2000 MADURO

The nutty, earthy core of this dark robusto is balanced by notes maple sugar and ground chili pepper before a woody finish.

U.S.: \$6.10 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 48 LENGTH: 5" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP.

WRAPPER: DOM. REP.

### TRINIDAD SANTIAGO ROBUSTO

A dark, oily robusto with a full draw but uneven burn. Notes of leather and earth precede sweeter touches of cocoa powder and nuts, but the finish is a bit sharp.

U.S.: \$8.90 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

89



### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5 1/4" FILLER: DOM. REP. BINDER: DOM. REP.

WRAPPER: U.S.A./CONN. BROADLEAF

### **ARTURO FUENTE AÑEJO** RESERVA NO. 50

The dense smoke of this dark robusto combines the sweet elements of dark chocolate with the tanginess of dried orange peel. The finish is earthy.

U.S.: \$10.79 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium-Full

88



### U.S.A.

RING GAUGE: 52 LENGTH: 5" FILLER: NICARAGUA, DOM. REP. BINDER: ECUADOR WRAPPER: ECUADOR

### **CORNELIUS & ANTHONY CORNELIUS** ROBUSTO

A woody-tasting robusto with intermittent notes of cocoa and nougat that precede the earthy finish. The draw is a bit firm, but the burn is even.

U.S.: \$14.20 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

RING GAUGE: 50 LENGTH: 5"
FILLER: NICARAGUA
BINDER: NICARAGUA
WRAPPER: NICARAGUA

### **DAVIDOFF NICARAGUA ROBUSTO (TUBO)**

The draw of this attractive robusto is a bit firm, but imparts the sweet and chewy notes of almond-studded nougat and honey, but the finish is dry.

U.S.: \$15.90 U.K.: N/A STRENGTH: Medium

87



### **CUBA**

RING GAUGE: 48 LENGTH: 4 3/4"
FILLER: CUBA
BINDER: CUBA
WRAPPER: CUBA
BOX DATE: DECEMBER 2017

## **PUNCH** REGIOS DE PUNCH EDICIÓN LIMITADA 2017

This small cigar produces a dark, flaky ash as it burns. Hints of pepper and oak are dominated by mineral characteristics and chemical notes. The finish is bitter.

U.S.: N/A U.K.: £23.70 STRENGTH: Medium-Full

### TOP SCORES, VALUES AND STRENGTH | BLIND TASTE TEST NO. 145

### TOP SCORES

H. Upmann Sir Winston Cuba • £32.91 • Churchill • Medium



The Wise Man Maduro Robusto

Nicaragua • \$10.50 • Corona Gorda • Medium-Full



Vegas Cubanas Generosos

Nicaragua • \$7.18 • Corona Gorda • Medium



Alec Bradley Black Market Estelí Churchill

Nicaragua • \$8.75 • Churchill • Medium-Full



Ashton Aged Maduro No. 60

Dominican Republic • \$12.40 • Double Corona • Medium



Diplomaticos No. 2

Cuba • £21.58 • Figurado • Medium-Full



92 Juan Lopez Selección No. 2

Cuba • £19.13 • Robusto • Medium-Full



Padrón 1964 Anniversary Series "A"

Nicaragua • \$34.10 • Double Corona • Medium-Full



**Ramon Allones Gigantes** 

Cuba • £30.02 • Double Corona • Medium



### **TOP VALUES**



Gilberto Oliva Reserva 6x50

Nicaragua • \$6.10 • Corona Gorda • Medium



Oliva Serie G Maduro Presidente

Nicaragua • \$7.32 • Double Corona • Medium



Padrón 2000 Maduro

Nicaragua • \$6.10 • Robusto • Medium-Full



Punch Gran Puro Nicaragua 7 1/2 x 54

Honduras • \$7.19 • Double Corona • Medium-Full



Macanudo Inspirado Red Toro

Nicaragua • \$6.99 • Corona Gorda • Medium-Full



Nat Cicco Aniversario 1965 Liga No. 4 Torpedo

Nicaragua • \$6.25 • Figurado • Medium

### MILDER CIGARS

Casa Magna Jalapa Claro Toro Box Press

Nicaragua • \$7.20 • Corona Gorda • Mild-Medium

**Undercrown Shade Corona Doble** 

Nicaragua • \$9.98 • Churchill • Mild

Diamond Crown Robusto No. 2

Dominican Republic • \$18.45 • Double Corona • Mild

Padrón Dámaso No. 17

Nicaragua • \$17.50 • Churchill • Mild

Romeo y Julieta Reserva Real Porto Real

Dominican Republic • \$7.92 • Panetela • Mild-Medium

### **MEDIUM-BODIED CIGARS**

Avo Maduro 30 Years No. 2

Dominican Republic • \$10.50 • Corona Gorda • Medium

**Rocky Patel Vintage 1990 Churchill** 

Honduras • \$10.10 • Churchill • Medium

Romeo y Julieta Wide Churchill

Cuba • £25.38 • Robusto • Medium

San Lotano Requiem Connecticut Churchill

Nicaragua • \$7.80 • Churchill • Medium

Vegas Robaina Unico

Cuba • £24.86 • Figurado • Medium

### STRONGER SMOKES

Micallef Reserva Limitada Privada

Nicaragua • \$42.00 • Churchill • Medium-Full

My Father La Opulencia Robusto

Nicaragua • \$10.10 • Robusto • Full

601 Blue Label Maduro Torpedo

Nicaragua • \$8.95 • Figurado • Medium-Full

La Flor Dominicana Colorado Oscuro No. 4

Dominican Republic • \$8.40 • Robusto • Medium-Full

**Ramon Allones Specially Selected** 

Cuba • £18.59 • Robusto • Medium-Full



# connoisseur's corner.

### A TASTING OF VINTAGE CIGARS



When you think of superb, big cigars, this one immediately comes to mind, for Hoyo Double Coronas are a benchmark for that Cuban size, which also goes by the name prominente. The wrapper on this large cigar—it measures 7 5/8 inches long, with a 49 ring gauge—is the texture of fine silk, the edges of the cigar squared just so. Everything about it is perfect, from the draw to the flavor. It's brimming with character, with unbelievable amounts of chestnuts, walnuts and cinnamon that left me speechless. A flawless smoke. —Marvin R. Shanken



# **98 PUNCH** NÉCTARES NO. 5 (1974)

This is a near-perfect corona. The wrapper is reddish brown, and covered with streaks of dark brown oils. The first attack brings a sweet cedar note, and that quickly shifts to wood and dark cocoa powder flavors. The finish ends with a sweet leathery note that lingers on the palate. At its peak, but there is life left in this 44-year-old smoke. —Gordon Mott



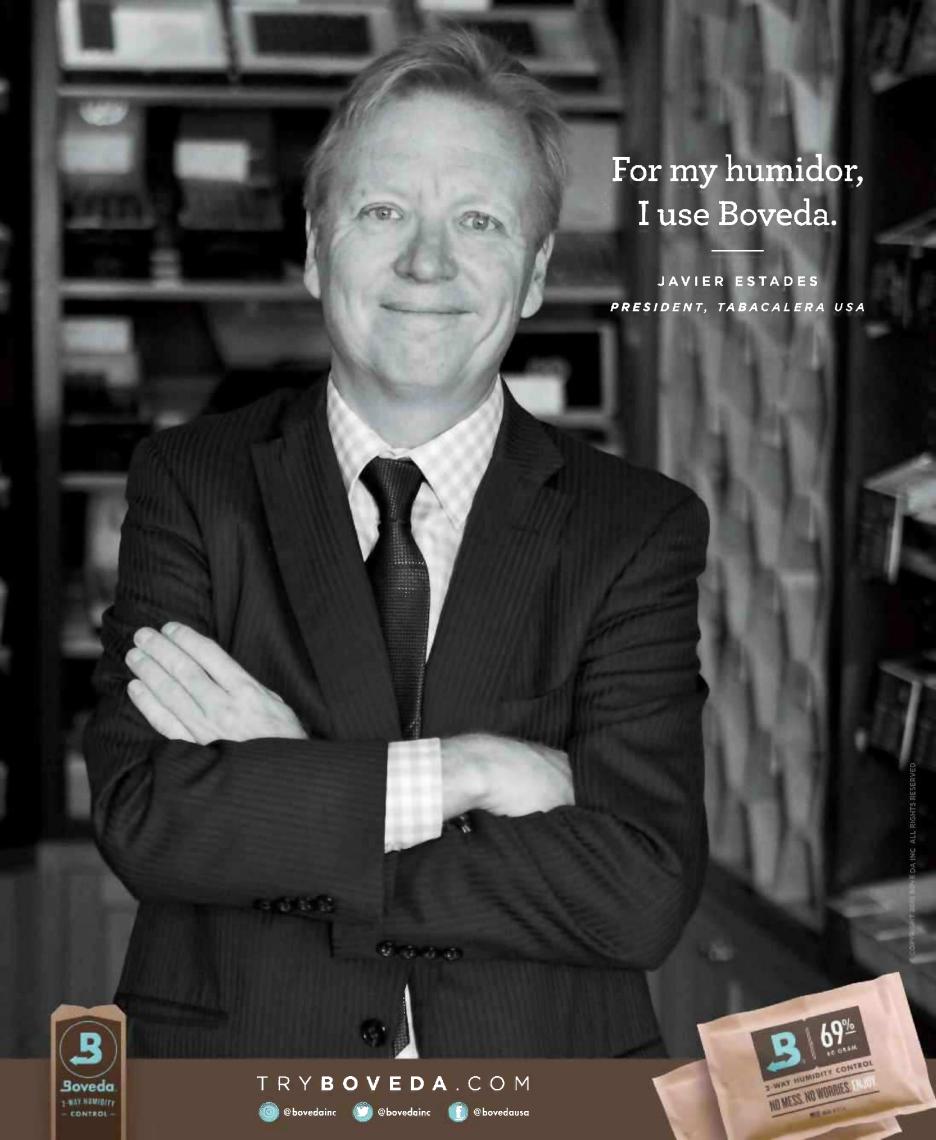
# 97 BOLIVAR INMENSAS (1995)

This long, rather skinny smoke falls into our lonsdale category, and more than two decades in a dress box has left it rather squared on the sides. The burn is not quite even, but the flavor is big, with touches of black pepper, tropical fruit and a sweetness reminiscent of a chocolate malted milkshake. The finish is long and luxurious, and the balanced smoke gets better with each puff. —David Savona



# **96** HOYO DE MONTERREY EPICURE NO. 1

This cigar (circa early '80s), taken from a cabinet of 50, displays all the characteristics of a well-aged smoke. Stored from its arrival at James Fox tobacconist in Dublin, the cigar has a solid core of cedar flavors, with a touch of white pepper on the mid-palate, and finally, a hint of dry leather on the smooth, long finish. It still has plenty of life in its future, but it's smoking perfectly right now. —Gordon Mott







# 112 and Feeling Fine

### The oldest man in America smokes cigars every day

he oldest man in the United States, Richard A. Overton, turned 112 on May 11, and he celebrated that momentous day like he does any other—by smoking cigars.

"I'm happy every day," he said while puffing a cigar in his home in East Austin, Texas, on his birthday. It was 2:30 in the afternoon, and he was already on cigar number six. "I don't have no worries. I feel fine—I ain't got no aches, pains or nothing."

Overton smokes cigars every day, and likes them mild. He smoked his first cigar in 1924, when he was 18. His regular brand is a Tampa Sweet. "I smoke 12 a day," he says, "but I don't inhale them. It's the good taste. Let your lungs stay clean."

Overton not only loves his cigars, but he has a taste for

whiskey. "You put a taste of whiskey in your coffee in the morning," he advises. "It's like medicine."

Overton was born in St. Mary's Colony, Texas, in 1906. The Dow Jones would break 100 for the first time that year, newspapers sold for a penny apiece and man had flown for a mere three years. Overton joined the U.S. Army during World War II, and his service took him to the South Pacific, where the United States fought some of its bloodiest battles. His boots hit the beaches of Guam, Palau and Iwo Jima, and he survived the war uninjured.

Light a cigar and raise your glass to Mr. Overton, America's oldest man—and oldest cigar aficionado.

-David Savona







# A Half Century of

Joya de Nicaragua is steeped in history, and the people behind the brand have their eyes on the future

### BY DAVID CLOUGH PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER GARRITANO

he guards are superstitious at night," says Juan Martínez. The president of Joya de Nicaragua is standing in a cavernous back hallway on the first floor of his company's cigar factory in Estelí, Nicaragua. He explains that the guards who patrol the grounds at night claim to see restless spirits, the ghosts of factory workers slain during the Nicaraguan revolution.

Martínez, a lean 35-year-old, points down the hallway. "During the revolution, the wall back there, the wall of the bathroom, was used by a firing squad. The National Guard came in and conducted executions, killing those suspected of being guerrillas."

That was the end of the 1970s, when the Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza tried—and failed—to crush the Sandinista revolution. He ordered his men to bomb Estelí, and the Joya de Nicaragua factory was hit in the strike. Soldiers arrived shortly after, marching through the rubble and debris in search of guerrilla fighters. They entered the factory with their weapons loaded. Suspected dissidents were ripped from their work stations, forced against a wall. A volley of gunfire, and then it was quiet.

Bombardment and bloodshed did not bring an end to Nicaragua's oldest cigar brand. The factory endured the war, and a five-year-embargo banning Nicaraguan goods from America. This year, Joya de Nicaragua celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Martínez heads to a brightly lit conference room where his father, Dr. Alejandro Martínez Cuenca, sits smoking a cigar. Cuenca, 71, acquired the factory in the early '90s and has remained at the helm of the company ever since.

"Joya de Nicaragua is now 50 years old," Cuenca says. "It's the oldest commercial premium cigar brand in Nicaragua. Everything starts from here. It's a moment in history. Joya was the start of the development of the manufacture of premium cigars in Nicaragua. We feel very proud of that."

The Joya de Nicaragua cigar brand was created in 1968 by Juan Francisco Bermejo and Simón Camacho, the founders of Nicaragua Cigar Co., which operated out of a small factory in downtown Estelí. In the early 1970s, the brand prospered and became a commercial success in the United States.

"The early years were a golden period for Joya de Nicaragua," Cuenca says. He puffs his cigar and sends a billowing plume of smoke into the air. "In 1971, Joya de



Nicaragua was named the official cigar of the White House, that's how popular it was."

But the brand's international success also attracted the attention of Somoza, who strong-armed control of Nicaragua Cigar Co. away from the original owners. Under Somoza's watch, the brand continued to grow in popularity. Between 1976 and 1978 the factory was producing 9.2 million Joya de Nicaragua cigars a year. Demand grew so rapidly that Somoza moved production of the cigar to a larger factory—the massive brick building it calls home to this day.

But in 1978, Nicaraguan civil unrest and rising tensions between Somoza and an opposing political faction called the Sandinista National Liberation Front reached a boiling point. There were riots in the streets. Somoza bombed his own cities. M4 Sherman tanks rolled through the wreckage of broken buildings and helicopters circled the smoke-filled skies. Violent protesters set fire to Somozaowned businesses, including the Joya de Nicaragua factory.

"The city was bombed. Buildings were destroyed," Cuenca says, his piercing blue eyes intent on his questioner. "Some of the National Guard who were defending the government stationed themselves in this place, so it became a target of attack from all fronts." He taps the end of his cigar in a nearby ashtray. "This place was burned to pieces. It burned to the ground in 1978."

Less than a year later, Somoza lost control of the country and fled Nicaragua, abandoning his people and his military. He was later assassinated in Paraguay by a squad of Sandinista commandos. The newly formed Sandinista government took control of Nicaragua and the workers of Nicaragua Cigar Co. rebuilt their damaged factory—but with no figurehead to lead the business, the company struggled. "In the 1980s, the company was nationalized and the workers took over. But they could not run the company. They could not sell cigars," Cuenca says. "They knew about tobaccos, they could make a cigar, but they could not sell it."

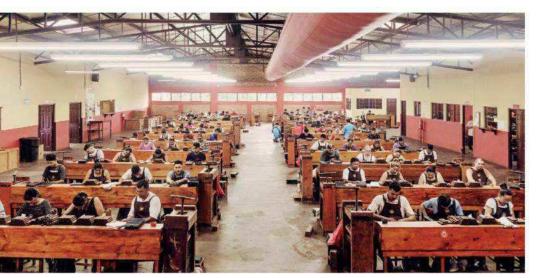
To make matters worse, it became impossible for Nicaragua Cigar Co. to market its cigars in the United States due to a nation-wide ban on all Nicaraguan imports. In an effort to undermine the newly formed Sandinista government, the U.S. imposed an embargo against Nicaragua in 1985, prohibiting all trade between the two countries until it was lifted in 1990. During those years, Nicaragua Cigar Co. sold its Joya cigars elsewhere, planting a strong foothold in the European market that persists to this day.

"Because of the embargo, we couldn't sell Joya in the United States, so we were selling in Europe and Asia. We had to diversify," Martínez explains. "That's one of the reasons why, today, we're one of the most international cigar brands from Nicaragua. For most of the cigar industry, 80 up to 90 percent of the production goes to the United States. For us, it's a little bit less than 50 percent. Right now we're in 53 countries... Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Germany and Russia have been historically strong for us."

Despite the brisk sales to Europe, Joya de Nicaragua struggled financially during the '80s and the early '90s. It missed selling cigars to the U.S., the world's largest cigar market. Representatives from the factory reached out for assistance to Alejandro Martínez Cuenca, who was governor of Nicaragua's Central Bank at the time. Cuenca saw a future for the struggling company.

"I am a Nicaraguan. I was born in Nicaragua. My area of concentration has always been economics but I became very familiar with the tobacco industry from a very young age," Cuenca says. "In terms of production of tobacco and knowledge of tobacco, it came after I decided to invest in this company back in 1993. When I noticed it was a company that had promise. Potential. Basically, because of the people that were working here."

Cuenca's Tabacos Puros de Nicaragua rented, then took over, Nicaragua Cigar Co. in 1994. By that time, the Nicaraguan embargo was over, and Cuenca knew it was essential for the company to



The main rolling room at Joya de Nicaragua, a brand that was first made 50 years ago.

reenter the U.S. market. But there was a big problem. The dictator Somoza had left a dagger in the back of Joya de Nicaragua.

Before he fled the country, Somoza sold the trademark for Joya de Nicaragua to an American company called Oppenheimer & Co. Oppenheimer found a different business partner to make Joya de Nicaragua cigars for them—one based in Honduras. It sounds bizarre, but during the 1980s, Joya de Nicaragua—the Nicaraguan puro whose name translates to "The Jewel of Nicaragua"—was being rolled in a different country with an entirely different blend of tobaccos.

"At the time, this company had no knowledge that in the United States there were cigars being sold with the name Joya de Nicaragua manufactured in Honduras," Cuenca says. "So my task was—once I decided to buy the company in 1994, after I had been running it for a year under a contract of rental of the facility—to get together with those that owned the trademark and try to negotiate an agreement." In 1994, he met with executives from Hollco-Rohr, a company that had acquired the U.S. distribution rights to Joya from Oppenheimer. Cuenca made a deal, and the Joya factory was once again able to produce Joya de Nicaragua cigars for the U.S. But Cuenca wasn't finished. He wanted to buy back the U.S. trademark and bring it home, where it belonged. But he would have to negotiate with yet another company.

Tabacalera Cigars International had acquired Hollco-Rohr, and with it, the U.S. Joya de Nicaragua trademark. (Through a series of mergers and acquisitions, Tabacalera would one day merge with France's SEITA and become Altadis S.A., which makes non-Cuban Montecristos and Romeo y Julietas under its U.S. subsidiary.) Cuenca acquired the brand in 1998, and finally, the Joya de Nicaragua trademark was back with his company.

Business began to pick up. Buoyed by strong sales during the late '90s, Cuenca set his sights on introducing a new cigar blend, a Nicaraguan puro that would honor the legacy of original Joya de Nicaraguas while setting the standard for a powerful, full-bodied cigar. In 2001, the company launched Joya de Nicaragua Antaño 1970. "It was a big chance for us. The blend was something we had never had before: A full-bodied cigar," Cuenca says. "We wanted something strong, a puro, a full Nicaraguan cigar—so everybody would be clear what a full-bodied cigar was. To create

a benchmark for what a full-bodied cigar should be. That was our target. And that was Antaño."

The name of the cigar was a homage to the golden years of the company. Those bright, few years during the 1970s before the hardships began.

"The name itself means 'yesteryear,'" Cuenca says. "As in, to remember the past in a nostalgic way, remembering the years of success in the 1970s. It was an important time for the brand."

The cigar was a triumph for the company. A growing demand for Nicaraguan cigars, and in particular fuller-bodied cigars, propelled Antaño to critical acclaim. In the December 2011 CIGAR AFICIONADO, the Antaño Machito, a small cigar packed with muscle-bound tobacco, scored 92 points.

In the coming years, the American obsession with powerhouse smokes from Nicaragua would only continue to grow, allowing many new cigar companies

to take root and expand in Nicaragua.

Throughout the 2000s, the proliferation of new cigar companies entering Nicaragua, as well as increased demand for fuller-bodied cigars, led manufacturers to roll increasingly stronger, spicier smokes. Cuenca admits that, by today's standards, Antaño 1970 would no longer be considered the strongest cigar on the market, but feels it was instrumental in starting a trend that persists to this day, and strengthened Nicaragua's cigar industry overall.

"After Antaño, there was the race up in terms of strength. It's no longer the fullest cigar on the market just because the bar has risen."

In 2009, Tabacos Puros de Nicaragua was renamed Joya de Nicaragua, to better align the company with its flagship brands. Shortly after, Juan Martínez, Cuenca's son, began to take a more active role in the company, and in 2013 he was named Cuenca's right hand man, taking on the role of president at Joya de Nicaragua. Tasked with driving the company forward into a new era, Martínez spearheaded the launch of the modernized Joya cigar brands. First Joya Red was introduced in 2014, followed by Joya Black in 2016.

"The Joya family of cigar brands is meant to appeal to a new generation of cigar smokers," Martínez says. "We wanted to overcome two perceptions in the U.S. marketplace—One, that Joya de Nicaragua only makes one type of cigar, a full-bodied cigar. And

### Nicaragua Is No. 1

BY GREGORY MOTTOLA

A fter years of steady growth and increased demand for its hearty, distinct tobacco, Nicaragua has become the largest exporter of handmade cigars to the United States. Last year, the country shipped a little more than 148 million premium cigars to the U.S. market.

For years, the reigning leader in premium cigar exports had been the Dominican Republic, but America's huge, growing appetite for Nicaraguan cigars eventually sent the Dominican Republic to second place, by about 30 million cigars.

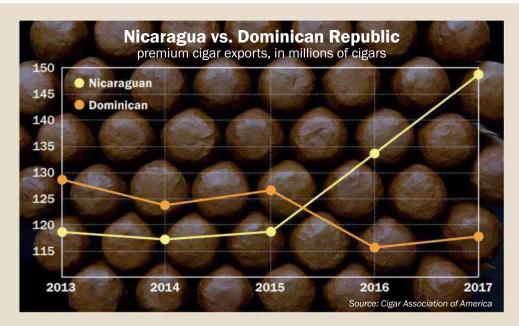
Today's cigar shops in America are loaded with cigars from Nicaraguan brands such as Padrón, My Father, Joya de Nicaragua, Oliva, A.J. Fernandez and Rocky Patel.

Nicaragua's new position of prominence is especially impressive when you consider the fact that the Central American country wasn't even a factor not too long ago. Consider its tumultuous history. Nicaraguan products were banned from the U.S. due to an embargo from 1985 to March 1990, and war ravaged the country. As a result, the nation exported fewer than 1 million cigars annually to the U.S. between 1991 and 1995.

By 2000, Nicaragua had pulled into third place, but still trailed far behind Honduras and even further behind the Dominican Republic. As infrastructure in Nicaragua improved, so did its tobacco, and consequently, its cigars. Smokers took notice, as did CIGAR AFICIONADO, which has named a Nicaraguan smoke the Cigar of the Year seven times—more than any other country.

Padrón Cigars has played a major role in elevating the status for Nicaraguan cigars, and the company has won the Cigar of the Year accolade a record three times.

There were some ups and downs from 1997 to 2003, but Nicaragua's growth since 2004 has been, for the most part, steady. There



were a few notable spikes in production—one in 2008 (up 22 percent), one in 2011 (an 18.7 percent increase) and a 15 percent increase in 2013, to nearly 119 million cigars.

Nicaragua's rise to prominence does not surprise Nestor Andrés Plasencia. His family-owned company, Plasencia Tobacco, is one of the largest growers of tobacco in Nicaragua and a major producer of cigars. "I think that U.S. consumers love the unique taste of Nicaraguan tobacco," he says. "In our factories, we grew 32 percent from 2016 to 2017. And in Nicaragua, we have the perfect soil for growing the tobacco. Also, the perfect microclimate—humidity, temperature and sunlight."

Nicaragua's No. 1 spot shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who's visited Estelí lately. It's the central city for the Nicaraguan cigar industry, located about 92 miles from the capital, and is clearly experiencing an economic boom. New cigar factories are opening up, existing cigar factories are nearing or reaching capacity and

the Pan-American highway, which cuts right through Estelí, is jammed with unprecedented amounts of traffic.

Even the recent political unrest has not deterred the cigar industry. The country erupted in April when President Daniel Ortega announced a tax increase and an overhaul to Nicaragua's social security system. While most of the protesting took place in the capital city of Managua, some of the violence spread to Estelí. However, the cigar industry remained focused and mostly unaffected.

"The people of Nicaragua have been working very hard to achieve this position," says Dr. Alejandro Martínez Cuenca, the owner and chairman of Joya de Nicaragua. "Ten years of work cannot be destroyed in one day."

In 2017, the United States imported a total of 330 million premium cigars. Nicaragua currently controls 45 percent of that number. It's an impressive lead—and one the country's cigarmakers intend to keep. •

two, that Joya is considered an old-school brand. We wanted to make it exciting again for the contemporary smoker."

Last year, the Joya Black Nocturno ranked No. 22 on CIGAR AFICIONADO'S Top 25 Cigars of the Year list. And this year, at the International Premium Cigar and Pipe Retailers trade show, the company plans to introduce the Joya de Nicaragua Cinco Decadas, a cigar meant to commemorate Joya's 50th anniversary.

"We wanted to celebrate this 50 years with a note of optimism to the industry. A realization that what we have achieved both as a company and as an industry is a story to be told," Cuenca says.

Martínez leaves his father's side and takes a staircase up to the second floor of the cigar factory. The rolling gallery. A dull murmur of hands crafting cigars, 68 pairs of rollers working tobacco leaves. Sunlight drifts through the windows at the front of the factory, falling on the shoulders of the workers seated there. It's a scene far removed from the company's turbulent past, but there are still traces of it here and there. Bullet holes in the front wall of the factory. Scars in the floor where a bomb ripped through the concrete.

"We left some of the evidence behind," Martínez says. "To remember. It's part of our history."

The past is never really dead at Joya de Nicaragua. It's built into the identity of the cigar brands, it's etched into the walls of the factory. And late at night, after the factory workers have gone home, history seems to come alive again, if only for a moment, when the guards take up their posts, their superstitions running wild. Recently, they have reported hearing unexplainable noises. In the dark and quiet halls they have heard the echo of chavetas scraping against each other, the quick strike of metal on metal, only to turn around and see nothing there—an empty cigar rolling table. A wooden chair. Pale moonlight slanting through the windows on the cold concrete floor. •

# Whisky Festival Vin North America







The Wine Spectator California Scholarship Foundation presents:

# SAN FRANCISCO

November 2, 2018

# **NEW YORK**

December 4, 2018



# More than 375 whiskies will be poured. Find a new favorite!

1000 Stories A. Smith Bowman Aberfeldy Amador Ardbeg Arran Baker's The Balvenie Barton 1792 Basil Hayden The BenRiach Bib & Tucker Bird Dog Blade and Bow Blanton's **Blood Oath** Booker's Bowmore Brenne **Brixton Mash** Destroyer Bruichladdich **Buffalo Trace** Bulleit Bushmills Casa Noble

**Charbay Distillery** 

Compass Box

Connemara Cooper & Thief Craigellachie David Nicholson Dewar's Douglas Laing Dove Tale Rum Eagle Rare Elijah Craig Ezra Brooks **Few Spirits** Four Roses Gentleman Jack George Dickel George T. Stagg Glen Grant Glen Moray The GlenDronach Glenfiddich Glenglassaugh Glengoyne Glenmorangie The Glenrothes Hakushu Heaven Hill Heaven's Door Henry McKenna Hibiki

**High West** Highland Park Hillrock Estate Distillery Hudson I.W. Harper The Irishman Jack Daniel's Single **Barrel Collection** Jim Beam John & Allisa's John Drew Rye Kavalan **Kentucky Peerless** Distilling Kilbeggan **Knappogue Castle Knob Creek** Lagavulin Laphroaig Larceny Bourbon Limestone Branch Distillery Little Book Lux Row Distillers The Macallan Maker's Mark

Masterson's

Michter's Nikka Nooku Oban Old Elk Old Fitzgerald **Old Forester Old Pulteney** Old Rip Van Winkle Parker's Heritage Collection Paul John Indian Single Malt Pikesville Rye The Pogues The Quiet Man Rebel Yell Redemption Russell's Reserve Sazerac The Sexton Slane Irish Whiskey Sonoma Distilling Co. Speyburn Stagg Jr. Stranahan's

**Taylor Teeling Whiskey** The Temple Bar **Thomas Handy** Tincup Toki **Tomatin** Tullibardine **Tyrconnell** Walsh Whiskey West Cork **Distillers** Western Spirits Westland Wheatley Vodka

WhistlePig
Widow Jane
Wild Turkey
William Larue
Weller
Woodford Reserve
Woodinville
Writer's Tears
Yamazaki

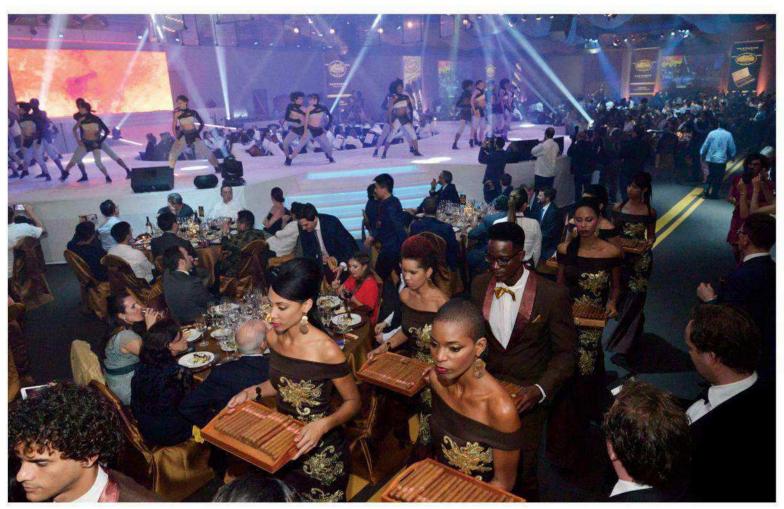
Whisky list is subject to change. Not all whiskies available in all cities.



A limited number of tickets are still available at WhiskyFest.com

# Two Decades of the Habanos Festival

Cigar lovers from all over the world gathered in Havana to celebrate 20 years of great smokes by Gordon mott



Cigars abounded at the gala dinner capping the 20th Habanos Festival. More than 2,000 were at the festival, and 1,200 attended the final evening.

he line of taxis, old Russian Lada limos and vintage Americanmade convertibles inched down the drive-through portico of PabExpo, the big hall hosting the closing gala dinner for the Festival del Habano. Male guests in tuxedos and formal guayaberas and women in dresses, gowns and kimonos walked the red carpet into the reception area where statuesque models handed out roses and goodie bags filled with Partagás cigars.

Inside the giant, 400-yard-long hall was a sea of Cuban cigar industry luminaries, cigar retailers and fans of Cuban cigars. Fernando Domínguez, the premium cigar director of Imperial Brands was there, as was Alison Cooper, the CEO of Imperial Brands from the United Kingdom. At one table was Hirochi Robaina, one of Cuba's top tobacco growers, and at another,

José María Cases, Andorra's cigar king.

In the background, the Cuban National Radio and Television Orchestra played jazzy standards as the crowd of more than 1,200 found their way to seats at the maze of tables placed around the circular stage, flanked by floor-to-ceiling posters of the Partagás brand.

The gala culminated a week like no other in the world of cigars, the annual Festival del Habano. The 2018 edition concluded on March 2, and it marked the event's 20th anniversary. More than 2,000 people registered (there were 200 journalists alone), and they came from all corners of the cigar universe: cigar company executives, Habanos distributors, cigar shop owners and hundreds of consumers, many of them guests of the big cigar distributors.

# "It is the most international of all the festivals I've been to. I'm meeting people from China, Dortmund, Britain. And the common denominator is that everyone loves cigars."

"It is the greatest celebration of Habanos cigars in the world. It is probably the greatest celebration of cigars anywhere," said Jemma Freeman, the managing director of Hunters & Frankau in the United Kingdom. "It's a very intensive week but its a perfect combination, learn something new, see something new, see friends, meet new people. That's why we come."

"It's the best cigar festival in the world," said Max Gutmann, the Habanos distributor in Mexico. "Nowhere else can you get people from all over the world to enjoy cigars with all the other cigar aficionados."



Hamed Abouzahr from Peru, looking over some of the Cohiba cigars that came with the humidor he won at the gala dinner with a \$418,000 bid.

Cigars remain the festival's biggest attraction, and this year didn't disappoint. The headliner was a Cohiba Robusto Reserva Cosecha 2014, a 5-inch-by-50-ring limited edition. Another special release, the Romeo y Julieta Grand Churchill (71/2 by 56) will come in humidors made by Elie Bleu, and only 450 will be made. The 2018 Edición Limitadas were announced, and they will be the Romeo y Julieta Tacos (62/3 by 49), Bolivar Soberano (51/2 by 54) and the H. Upmann Propios (43/4 by 46). The 2018 Casa del Habano exclusives are a Hoyo de Monterrey Escogidos (7 by 49) and the San Cristobal de la Habana Prado, a petit pyramid at 5 by 50.

There were also line extensions announced for regular-production brands. The Partagás Linea Maduro No. 1 (5 by 52) will be joined by the Maduro No. 2, a short pyramid measuring 4 3/4 by 55, and the Maduro No. 3, a straight-sided cigar at 5 3/4 by 50. A new Le Hoyo, the Rio Seco, will be the thickest in the lineup, 5 1/2 inches long with a plump 56 ring gauge. And the value-brand Vegueros will be expanded with a 5 1/2 by 50 cigar called a Centrofinos. (All of the Festival cigars won't appear at retail for many months; at this writing, the world still awaits some of the releases teased at the 2017 show.)

The week is about more than just cigars. The opening night at the El Laguito protocol hall, a large indoor/outdoor space with gardens and a pool, saw people milling around the grounds, puffing away on the new Cohiba. Under the stars, there were Havana Club stands serving Mojitos, and roast pork dished out by the plateful. Los Van Van, Cuba's best-known live-music band, hit the stage late in the evening. Tuesday was devoted to a field trip to the tobacco fields in San Juan y Martínez and San Luís. Havana's cigar factories served as the focal point of Thursday's activities.

After an entire day of seminars at the convention center on everything from the genetics of Cuba's tobacco hybrids to the history of the Festival, the Wednesday-night gala at the small 19th-century Teatro Marti in Old Havana was devoted to a celebration of Cuban dance and music. After, the guests headed to the fully renovated Opera House, a stunning building ablaze with lights, where they received a selection of Cuba's top export brands.

"There's no business done at all," said Walid Saleh, the managing director of Phoenicia Trading, the distributor for Habanos cigars in the Middle East. "We come every year to share our passions with cigar smokers from all over the world." His company had 45 guests. "During daytime, you work," said Ajay Patel, owner of the Casa del Habano in Teddington, England. "And at nighttime you party."

The final day saw the Habanos Sommelier and the Habanos World Challenge competitions. Darius Namdar of Mark's Club in London defeated sommeliers from Cuba, Italy and Russia to capture the Sommelier award. The World Challenge, a new event, pitted regular cigar lovers against each other in two-person teams. Raffi Der Garapetian and Alexis Tsielepis from Cyprus held off a Cuban team through several rounds of questions testing cigar knowledge.

The closing-night gala epitomizes what's best about the festival: cigars and culture. The evening included a cavalcade of dancers and musicians in a three-hour performance, culminating with a live number by the Cuban band Orishas.

The capstone of every Festival is the auction. "The thing I love about the Festival is the money that is given and donated to the Cuban public health system," said Gary Heathcott, the American auctioneer. "It is the single largest fundraiser every year for public health in this country. That means a lot to me."

When Heathcott's gavel fell for the last time, the seven humidors had raised \$1.8 million. The highest bid of \$418,000 went for the Cohiba humidor, which came with 550 Cohiba cigars; the winning bidder was Hamed Abouzahr, a Lebanese Peruvian who distributes Habanos cigars in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. "We are human," Abouzahr told CIGAR AFICIONADO. "We did this for the public health of Cuba." The biggest buyer of the night was Hamad Al-Shamsi of Dubai, who purchased three of the six humidors for a total outlay of \$750,000. Other buyers included Bedar Zeidan of Phoenicia Trading, consumer Alex Wong from Hong Kong and Reza Valibalouch, a Belgian cigar merchant.

Amid the final night's hullabaloo, Jeff Borysiewicz, the owner of Corona Cigar in Orlando, Florida, and a first-time visitor to Cuba, said, "It was totally an eye-opening experience and not what I expected. I mean that in a good way. I've always had a lot of respect for the tobacco growers and farmers here, but I had never understood the country of Cuba. It was more beautiful. More advanced. It is the most international of all the festivals I've been to. I'm meeting people from China, Dortmund, Britain. And the common denominator is that everyone loves cigars." ❖

Since our inception, the Mount Sinai Health System has challenged the boundaries of medicine through groundbreaking research, which has led to improved methods of diagnosing and treating human disease. That's why we are so proud to have been recognized by U.S. News & World Report, which named The Mount Sinai Hospital to the Honor Roll of Best Hospitals in America. The Mount Sinai Hospital is one of only a handful of hospitals on the U.S. News Honor Roll. Seven of our specialties ranked among the top 20, validating our commitment to

innovation and improved outcomes, and our team approach to personalized patient care. We look forward to continuing our groundbreaking work and giving our patients the best possible care, particularly when they are at their worst. For you. For life.

I - 8 0 0 - M D - S I N A I mountsinai.org



# EVIDENTLY,

THIS IS ONE

OF THE BEST PLACES TO BE

WHEN YOU

ARE AT YOUR WORST.





# WINE SPECTATOR'S CRITICS' CHOICE

# GRAND TASTINGS

PART OF THE NEW YORK WINE EXPERIENCE

Two nights of 250+ exceptional wines rated 90+ by Wine Spectator's editors.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet the winemakers and try wines from the world's best wine growing regions.

### Thursday, October 18th & Friday, October 19th

Marriott Marquis | New York City | 6:30pm-10:00pm







VIP Tickets: \$475 | General Admission Tickets: \$375

### NYWINEEXPERIENCE.COM

The New York Wine Experience is sponsored by The Wine Spectator Scholarship Foundation.

# moments to remember

Please send all submissions to: CIGAR AFICIONADO/Moments to Remember, Worldwide Plaza, 825 Eighth Avenue, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10019. Or email them to: momentstoremember@mshanken.com. To order additional copies of CIGAR AFICIONADO, call 1-800-344-0763.



Barnaby W. Horton gets an autographed CIGAR AFICIONADO from Jamie Widdoes, the actor who played Hoover in *Animal House*, in New York City.



Great cigars for a great cause. The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity gather to support the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association Service Dogs for Warriors Program at their sixth annual charity cigar night in Holmdel, New Jersey. The program helps train service dogs that assist veterans suffering from PTSD.



Marvin R. Shanken, NBA legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Larry Mullin of Seminole Gaming enjoy fine cigars at 1000 North in Jupiter, Florida.



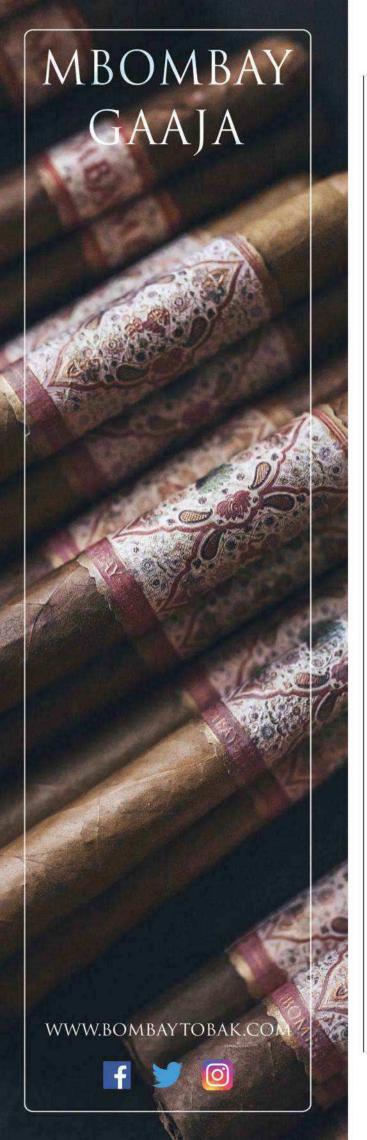
A birthday spent with good smokes, good drinks and good friends. From left, Dr. James Mauck, Dr. Geof Rogers, Counselor David Mirken and Dr. Bill Buckley savor glasses of Scotch and premium handrolled cigars in celebration of Dr. Rogers' milestone 60th at Knollwood Country Club in Granger, Indiana.



Benny Corbello, left, and David Fontenot, right, of Lafayette, Louisiana, pose for a picture and share a smoke with cigarmaker Litto Gomez of La Flor Dominicana cigars at their go-to vacation stop: Harbor Cigars in Destin, Florida.



Nothing complements an exciting round of golf better than a great cigar. Jackson Stewart, Travis Stewart, Brad Webb and Mark Taylor puff away at the Pete Dye–designed Whistling Straits golf course in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.





Good friends Rich Schneider, Ray Schmidt, Mike Hopkins and Mike Schmidt puffing on cigars in the sunshine with Richard Warren, center, of Great Lake Tobacconist in Put-in-Bay, Ohio.



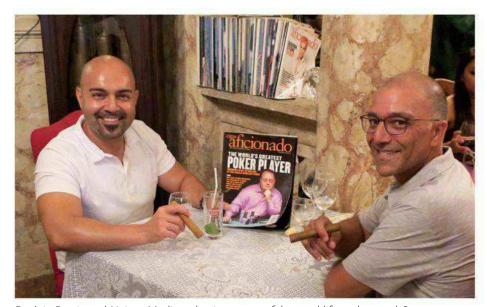
Joseph Hartman and a group of best friends from Wyoming travel to the Los Chañares Dove Hunting Lodge in Córdoba, Argentina, to hunt and relax with plenty of cigars and whiskey.



Jonathan and Ana Hidalgo celebrate their wedding at Shangri-La Springs in Bonita Springs, Florida, by smoking Rocky Patel cigars with none other than Rocky Patel, Nish Patel and Nimish Desai.



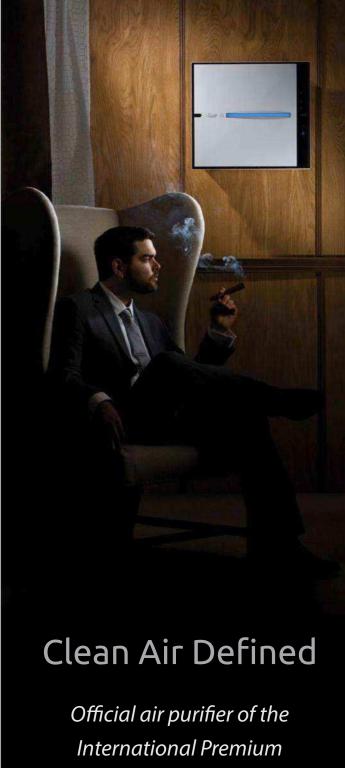
Jack Constantine, his sons Ernie and James, and his cousin Harry Demiris puff on Montecristo No. 2 cigars at the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Southport, England.



Dr. Ario Barzin and Naisan Modjarrad enjoy a taste of the good life as they read CIGAR Aficionado magazine before lighting up a cigar at the San Cristóbal Paladar in Havana, Cuba.



Corey Berardicurti of Tampa, Florida, and his brother Paul Berardicurti of Penfield, New York, share a cigar while spending time together at Old Key West Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

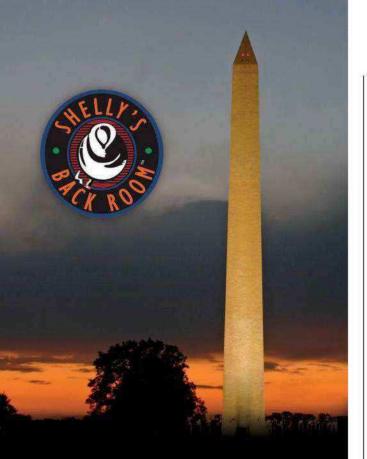


Cigar & Pipe Retailers (IPCPR)



Effective . Quiet . Stylish Air Purifiers

For a free catalog call 888.866.8862 www.rabbitair.com/smoke



# A LEGEND AMONG LANDMARKS

A standard for cigar aficionados for over 20 years, Shelly's Back Room is a comfortable, yet still elegant, retreat in which to enjoy fine cigars and choose from a distinguished assortment of single malt and blended whiskies.

Lunch, dinner and late-night menus offer the perfect complement to your cigar smoking pleasure.

A new, state-of-the-art continuous fresh air system will make your visit to Washington's best cigar tavern even better!

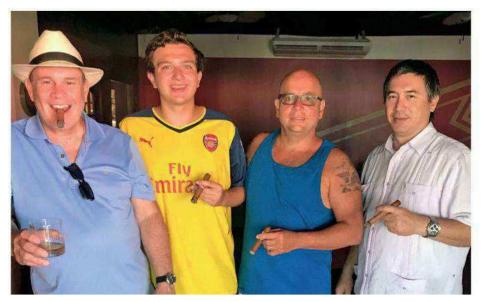
Shelly's Back Room

1331 F. Street NW • Washington, D.C. 202.737.3003 • SHELLYSBACKROOM.COM









Jaime Reyes, Al González and Drew González savor a pairing of Ramon Allones cigars with Cuban rum at the La Casa del Habano in Saint Kitts and Nevis with manager Orlens Guerra.



Jason R. Ramage and Jerrie K. Ramage, both proud veterans, share a special father-son moment while trading war stories over cigars on Father's Day in Columbus, Ohio.



Rene Guenette, Bob Beretta, Ken Fanion and Ron Wnuk relax with a pint of Guinness and a couple of excellent cigars after playing a round at the Old Course in St Andrews, Scotland.



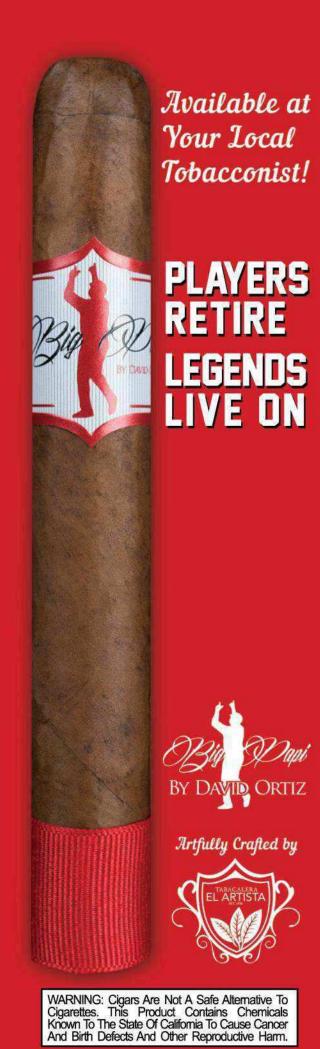
Kenny Johnson and John Floyd indulge in the good life with Cuban Romeo y Julieta Wide Churchill cigars and a bottle of Old Rip Van Winkle 10 Year Bourbon in Linda Vista, California.



After reeling in a 100-pound tuna off the coast of Panama, Rick Davis, Scott Reed and Fred Maas celebrate the right way, by lighting up and savoring a few Cuban Partagás cigars.



Jay Cleary and his father Tom Cleary share a special bonding moment on Father's Day while puffing on a couple of premium smokes poolside in Columbia, South Carolina.



# Every legend has a beginning #13 Cigar of 2017 by aficionado **AXIS MUNDI** ARCHETYPE venturacigar.com UENTURN #archetypecigars f/venturacigar @eventuracigar

MARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including tobacco smoke, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov. WARNING; Smoking cigars causes lung cancer, heart disease, and may complicate pregnancy.



The team at Cowbell Brewing Co. commemorates a successful first brew at its new Destination Brewery in Blyth, Ontario, by lighting up cigars from A.J. Fernandez on the brewhouse deck.



Ron Merroit, Bobby Garland, Mike McCoy, John Mowery, Steve Johnson and Phil Harris celebrate a retirement event with cigars and libations at the Ashton Cigar Bar in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

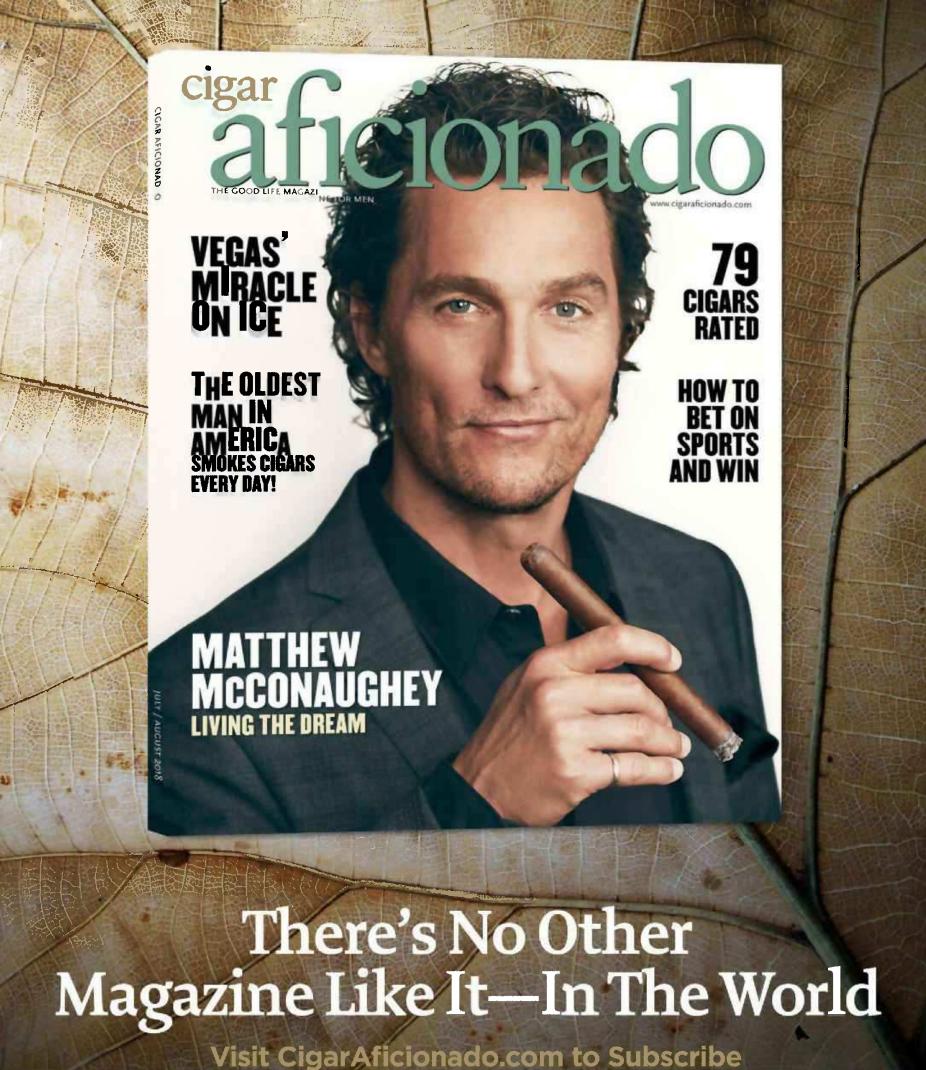


Dario Beragamo, Carlos "Carlito" Fuente Jr. and Tom Celani enjoy an evening of drinks, dancing and cigars at the Celani Family Foundation's Cars & Cigars fundraiser in Detroit, Michigan.

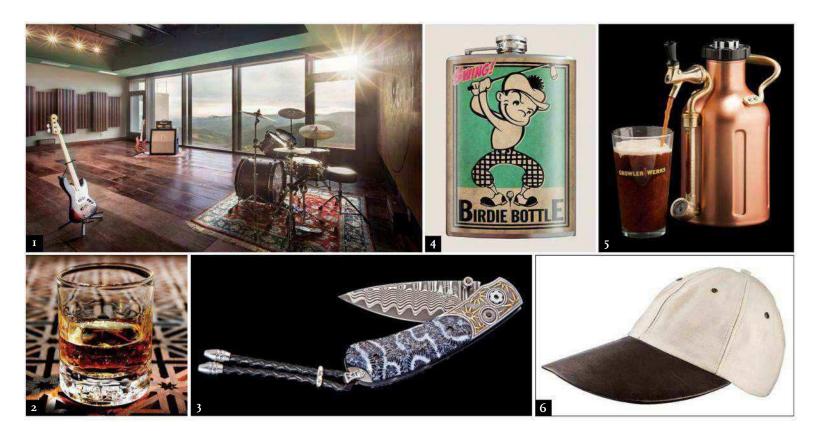
CIGAR AFICIONADO (ISSN #1063-7885) is published bimonthly by M. Shanken Communications, Inc., Worldwide Plaza, 825 Eighth Avenue, 33rd floor, New York, NY 10019. (212) 684-4224. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Address changes and subscription inquiries: CIGAR AFICIONADO, P.O. Box 37367 Boone, IA 50037-0367; call 1-800-365-4929; or email cgacustserv@cdsfulfillment.com. Subscription rates: United States, \$24.95 per year; Canada, \$38.00 per year; all other foreign, \$56.00. Subscriptions are payable in U.S. funds. TO ORDER A NEW SUBSCRIPTION, call 1-800-992-2442, email cgacustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, or write to aforementioned Boone address. To order back issues, call 1-800-761-4099. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned, and no responsibility can be assumed for such material. All "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the editor at the aforementioned New York address. All rights in letters sent to CIGAR AFICIONADO will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes and subject to CIGAR AFICIONADO's unrestricted right to edit. CIGAR AFICIONADO® is a

and subject to CIGAR AFICIONADO's unrestricted right to edit. CIGAR AFICIONADO® is a registered trademark of M. Shanken Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reprinted or reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher. Copyright © 2018, M. Shanken Communications, Inc. To sell CIGAR AFICIONADO call: 1-800-344-0763.





# made for you



In a world of fast food and one-size-fits-all sensibilities, how often does something feel made especially for you? The "Made for You" section celebrates those items that are created with such high quality of hand workmanship and degree of customization that they become individual to you. In each issue, our editors will endeavor to bring you special things from anywhere on the globe, choosing them solely on the basis of outstanding quality. Our goal is to give you guidance on the best of everything.

### DESTINATION RECORDING—SONASTÉRIO STUDIOS

If you're musically inclined and have a hankering to lay down some tracks of your own, consider Sonastério Studios, Brazil's world-class destination recording studio and luxury home. Walters-Storyk Design Group, a global architectural-acoustic consulting firm, has created facilities atop a mountain near Belo Horizonte. As well as state-of-the-art equipment it also offers three guest bedrooms with five-star amenities. The rock group Daparte recently recorded there. Even if you can't play with the same chops, you can enjoy the sweeping views. sonasterio.com or wsdg.com

### 2 ROCKING THE ROCKS GLASS—GLASS BLOWER BEN

Want a really old-fashioned Old Fashioned? Or just whiskey—on the rocks or neat? Ben Dombey, a New Orleans master craftsman, will make you the glass the old school way: by blowing it. His inspiration came on a trip to Scotland and he spent years developing the right technique for the hefty vessel. As the glasses are created under intense heat, they all have the unique texture of a handmade piece, but they can be further customized by stamping the image of your choice into the base of the glass while the material is still molten. glassblowerben.com

### 3 KNICE KNIFE—WILLIAM HENRY

Maybe the reason guys don't go in for jewelry much is that they want their adornments to be purposeful and not just ornamental. Hence, watches tell time and links keep your cuffs together. And who hasn't been in a pinch when a blade would come in handy? Enter William Henry with a range of adorned guy stuff. The Kestrel Zephyr pocketknife (\$1,350), has a hand-forged, Damascus steel-blade and 24-karat-gold and fossil-coral frame. williamhenry.com

### 4 THE FLASK TASK—TRIXIE & MILO

In 2011, the concept behind starting Trixie & Milo was to bring back high-quality to men's gifts for occasions like weddings. The Portland, Oregon wife-and-husband team of the same name first got into antique-styled drink ware (they now make retro-style bags, shop aprons and multi-tools). They really found their niche with drinking flasks. Applying vintage artwork to well-crafted, stainless-steel containers, they've come up with a broad spectrum of retro-styled (often humorous) flasks for a number of personality types. trixieandmilo.com

### 5 PRESSURED SUDS—GROWLERWERKS

A beer growler is the perfect vessel to transport choice craft brews from the draft to your house. Standard growlers, though, let in air upon opening, which can spoil your beer and cause it to turn flat. GrowlerWerks 640z. copper-plated uKeg (\$169) keeps beer fresh for longer via its patented CO2 regulator cap. The cap automatically sets pressure to optimally carbonate your beer and can be adjusted based on the style of brew. The stainless-steel uKeg also features a vacuum-insulated double wall to keep your beer cool. growlerwerks.com

### 6 A HAT FOR HEMINGWAY—J. PETERMAN

Ernest Hemingway loved the manly arts of boxing and bullfighting, had his own version of Cuba's most famous cocktail (see story, page 93) and spent a heroic amount of time outdoors, at times wearing a soft cap with an extra long brim. J. Peterman sells a version of this hat, with a brim so big and sturdy you can balance a Daiquiri on it (we tried). The fitted cap, made of soft duck canvas, is comfortable, and the six brass grommets make it ideal for warm weather. The sturdy calfskin brim is what makes this hat stand out. It's built to shade your eyes when The Sun Also Rises. *ipeterman.com* 



